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Saudi Says U.S. Joined In War Aid To Bosnians

White House Denies It Helped Riyadh Or Broke Embargo

By Michael Dobbs
Washington Post Service

WASHINGTON — Dismayed by Western inaction in Bosnia, Saudi Arabia funded a $300 million covert operation to channel weapons to the Muslim-led government over the last three years with the knowledge and tacit cooperation of the United States, according to an official with firsthand knowledge of the operation.

The arms shipments, which were in addition to about $500 million in Saudi humanitarian aid, violated a United Nations arms embargo on the former Yugoslavia that Washington had pledged to enforce.

The Bosnian program was modeled in some respects on the Afghanistan experience in the 1980s, when Saudi Arabia helped finance the covert arming of anti-Soviet Muslim fighters in an operation supported by a similar cast of former American military and intelligence personnel and agents, according to a Saudi official, who spoke on condition that he not be identified. The essential difference was that the United States did not provide matching funds for the Bosnian arms-smuggling effort.

The official provided significant new details about the scope, timing and mode of operation of the program, of which only sketchy descriptions have been provided in the past by American and other Western officials. The Saudi decision to reveal the information appeared motivated in part by a desire to take some credit away from Iran for a series of military and diplomatic gains by the Bosnian Muslims in their battle with the Bosnian Serbs.

The Saudi assertion of U.S. cooperation in supplying arms to the Bosnian Muslims drew strong denials from U.S. officials. One senior White House official called the allegation "preposterous and insulting." Clinton administration officials have repeatedly denied persistent reports of U.S. involvement in arming the Bosnian Muslims during the three-and-a-half-year civil war.

The Saudi official provided few details about direct American involvement, but insisted that the American role "was more than just turning a blind eye to what was going on."

"It was consent combined with stealth cooperation," he added. American knowledge began under President George Bush and became much greater under President Bill Clinton, he said.

The White House official said that the United States would not have attempted to mount such an operation because allied troops were on the ground in Bosnia as part of the UN peacekeeping force.

"Whatever the Saudis claim to have done was not in concert with us, or with our approval," the American official said. "We have not in any way coordinated, endorsed, or in any other way encouraged other countries to violate the arms embargo."

The Saudi official also said his country was ready to help finance a U.S.-led effort to bring the Bosnian government army up to the level of its Bosnian Serbian enemy after the lifting of the UN arms embargo. He said that negotiations were still continuing on the financing of the program but that Saudi Arabia was prepared to donate "up to $50 million," or between 15 percent and 25 percent of the total cost.

The Saudi official played down the Iranian role in Bosnia, saying Tehran had "the loudest mouth" but did not contribute nearly as much money to the Muslim cause as Riyadh. Western officials say the Iranian contribution was

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Yin Jusheng/The Associated Press

DEADLY BLAST — Rescuers carrying a survivor of a dynamite explosion in China that killed 100. Page 5.

Coal Miners' Strike Stiffens in Russia

Reformer Urges IMF to Hold Off On Moscow Loan

By Alan Friedman and Jonathan Gage
International Herald Tribune

DAVOS, Switzerland — The IMF should deny Russia $9 billion in loans until President Boris N. Yeltsin makes a detailed commitment to continue economic reforms, Russia's leading pro-democracy campaigner said in an interview here Friday.

Grigori A. Yavlinsky, the liberal economist who is the second most popular candidate in the race for the Russian presidency, accused Mr. Yeltsin of "tilting toward the Communists" by slowing down reforms.

Mr. Yavlinsky, 43, added that the International Monetary Fund should also demand assurances that its earlier loans will not be used to finance Moscow's war in Chechnya.

In Moscow on Friday, Mr. Yeltsin's chief of staff said the president would not deviate from the path of reform.

"There is no power, except for the Almighty, who could force Russian President Boris Yeltsin to turn from the course of reform and renounce the convictions he has suffered for," said Nikolai Yegorov, in the most colorful assertion so far of the Kremlin leader's commitment.

Also Friday, U.S. Deputy Treasury Secretary Lawrence Summers noted that Washington had received reassurances this week from Prime Minister Viktor S. Chernomyrdin that Russia would not abandon reforms.

"I would highlight the importance of continued reforms," Mr. Summers said in a news conference here.

But Mr. Yavlinksy, speaking ahead of meetings he will have here this weekend with a number of U.S. officials, including Mr. Summers and Assistant Secretary of State Richard C. Holbrooke, contended that the Russian reassurances were worthless. "Yeltsin is turning the reform boat around in the middle of the river," he said.

He said that Mr. Yeltsin had read the results of last December's parliamentary elections, taken note of the Communist Party victory and decided that to win next June's presidential election "all he has to do is move his policy toward the Communists."

Mr. Yavlinsky said Mr. Yeltsin's re-

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80% of Pits Idle; Ukraine Also Hit by Walkout

By David Hoffman
Washington Post Service

MOSCOW — Stung by a nationwide strike of coal miners, Russian officials promised Friday to consider miners' demands for unpaid wages and for fixed subsidies to the coal industry, but union leaders said the shutdown would continue.

In Russia, union leaders estimated that 450,000 of 580,000 coal miners were on strike, idling 80 percent of the industry. A few mines in the Far East decided to return to work so local power stations would not exhaust coal supplies. The miners claim they are owed about $200 million in back pay; the government has rushed to pay some of the arrears.

In Ukraine, an estimated 91 of the country's 227 coal pits went on strike, and another 100 pits extracted coal but refused to ship it, according to the Interfax news service. The Ukrainian miners are owed about $360 million in unpaid wages, and they also want more subsidies.

But the Ukrainian prime minister, Yevgeni Marchuk, rejected more handouts, saying that Ukraine should have long ago swallowed the "bitter medicine" of restructuring the coal industry.

"This was not done on time," he said, according to Interfax. In the past, he added, "all subsidies for the coal industry usually produced no other results but the waste of enormous funds. The state does not have idle money to throw into the hole without any hopes of return."

His comments went to the core of the strike. The coal industry in both Russia and Ukraine remains largely state-run and heavily subsidized, and restructuring has barely begun. Coal miners have not been paid because both state subsidies and payments from coal customers — steel mills and electric power plants — have been chronically late. Russia's economy has been mired in a web of unpaid debts paralyzing the state and much of its moribund industrial base.

The coal miners' strike comes as a potent symbol of social unrest just weeks before President Boris N. Yeltsin is expected to announce plans to run

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Lobbying: China's New Pasttime

By Elaine Sciolino
New York Times Service

WASHINGTON — Last November, representatives from the communications firm of Robinson Lerer Sawyer Miller were invited to the Chinese Embassy to present an ambitious three-year public relations strategy for Beijing.

Focus on "hot button issues" like human rights and weapons sales, the Chinese were told, according to people familiar with the presentation.

Put on a road show of Chinese athletes during the Summer Olympics. Create a command center to handle crises. Set up a news bureau with television links and an on-line information system.

The firm boasted that it operated "well behind the scenes" and represented corporate giants like Microsoft and Chrysler and the governments of countries like the Philippines, Columbia, Chile and Indonesia.

The Chinese listened politely and thanked their guests.

Officials at the firm say they have not heard back.

Given China's historic suspicion of outside interference, the encounter was highly unusual, as were China's tentative overtures to other U.S. lobbying firms.

The search was part of an awkward effort to defeat Taiwan — not by arms but by means of a public relations campaign in the United States.

On this battlefield, however, even a nuclear power of 1.2 billion people and the fastest-growing economy in the world is no match for a small island of 20 million inhabitants that has assiduously worked Washington for decades.

"It's hard to think of anybody who does this kind of thing worse," said Stanley Roth, director of studies at the U.S. Institute for Peace, who was the senior Asia specialist at the White House until last month.

"The Chinese come in and tell you what they want to do and you're supposed to say, 'Good.' They are not willing to compete in the realm of ideas nor do they recognize that the key to lobbying is education over time."

But ever since the Clinton administration bent to congressional pressure and allowed President Lee Teng-hui of Taiwan to visit the United States last summer, the Chinese have seemed determined to sell their message better.

President Jiang Zemin has admitted the need for China to develop its skills in dealing with other nations, telling U.S. News and World report last year: "We have not developed the practice of picking up the phone and saying 'hello' to President Clinton. I think we need to improve this. We certainly haven't done enough lobbying of the U.S. Congress."

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Scientists Cheer Promise of Experimental AIDS Drug

By Lawrence K. Altman
New York Times Service

WASHINGTON — An experimental drug has nearly halved both the death rate from advanced AIDS and the number of serious complications of the disease in a large international study that lasted seven months, the drug's developer reported at a scientific meeting here.

Many of the 2,100 participants at the meeting enthusiastically greeted the report Thursday that the drug, ritonavir, prolonged the lives of some patients in the study. William Paul, head of the federal office of AIDS research, said: "Patients need to know this is promising, all signs are optimistic, and it is wrong not to be optimistic."

Nevertheless, Dr. Paul and many others cautioned that there was no way to determine how long the drug's beneficial effect would last. People at the meeting pointed to some disquieting data in the report that raised questions whether resistant strains of HIV might have taken over early in the treatment period, jeopardizing longer-term results.

Ritonavir is a member of a new class of drugs known as protease inhibitors that have excited participants at the Third Conference on Retroviruses and Opportunistic Infections, which ended Thursday. Studies reported earlier this week showed that another protease inhibitor, indinavir, when combined with standard AIDS drugs, appeared to be the most powerful AIDS therapy ever tested on infected patients.

One study focused on the amount of HIV in the body, showing that the indinavir combination reduced the amount of HIV to levels that could not be detected by standard laboratory tests in 26 patients over 24 weeks.

Earlier studies have shown that protease inhibitors lead to a sustained rise in the number of CD-4 cells — the specialized white cells in blood that are crucial for immune system function and that are destroyed by HIV.

In the ritonavir study of nearly 1,100 patients, 13 percent died or suffered further progression of severe AIDS, compared with 27 percent of patients who received a placebo, John M. Leonard, an official at Abbott Laboratories reported.

In terms of death alone, the death rate was 4.8 percent among 543 patients who received ritonavir, compared with 8.4 percent among 547 patients who received a placebo, Dr. Leonard said.

The participants — from 67 clinics in Australia, Canada, the United States and seven European countries — were taking many combinations of anti-HIV drugs, and they agreed to let the selection of ritonavir or placebo be made by lot.

Malaysia's Economy: Will Boom Turn to Bust?

By Edward A. Gargan
New York Times Service

PUTRAJAYA, Malaysia — As far as the eye can see, fringed oil palms, the trees that once brought wealth to this peninsula, parade in ranks up and down the hills.

But in a bulldozed clearing, rising like a glistening inverted ice cream cone, stands a steel monument to the future. It marks the site, 40 kilometers (25 miles) south of Kuala Lumpur, of what will be this country's new capital and has come to symbolize Malaysia's sprint toward status as a developed nation.

In little more than a decade, Malaysia has transformed itself from a commodity-based economy — dependent on palm oil, rubber and tin — into one of the new growth engines of Southeast Asia.

Foreign investment has been pouring in, the government has been spending huge amounts on a host of construction projects, and home-grown conglomerates have become a force not only here but throughout the region.

Yet the 9 percent pace of growth, the rush of capital spending and the swell of national stature are taking their toll. There are not enough workers, particularly skilled ones. Inflation is on the rise and imports are increasingly outstripping exports. A few foreign companies have already relocated some of their operations to cheaper markets.

In a recent report, BZW Asia Research, an arm of Barclays de Zoete Wedd Inc., the British merchant bank, cited concerns that the economy was starting to overheat. "If left untended," it warned, "the economy could be vulnerable to a meltdown."

Indeed, while doubts about the staying power of the Malaysian boom have been voiced for some time, they have a new urgency. After eight years of nearly unbroken growth of 8 percent or better, the question now is whether Malaysia can afford to keep hurtling along at breakneck speed. In short, Malaysia seems to be at a turning point, one that sooner or later faces every developing country that tries to move ahead in a hurry.

The government of Prime Minister Mahathir bin Mohamad has responded by conceding that Malaysia must increase its exports to stanch a growing balance-of-payments deficit. And in recent months, the government has made some efforts to restrain domestic consumption. Interest rates have crept up slightly, for example, and banks can now lend only 75 percent toward the purchase of new cars, down from 90 percent.

Still, Mr. Mahathir, a medical doctor by training who has been in power since July 1981, has displayed little patience for critics of his economic policies. At a recent gathering of economists in Malaysia, he said that none of the country's grandiose projects would be slowed.

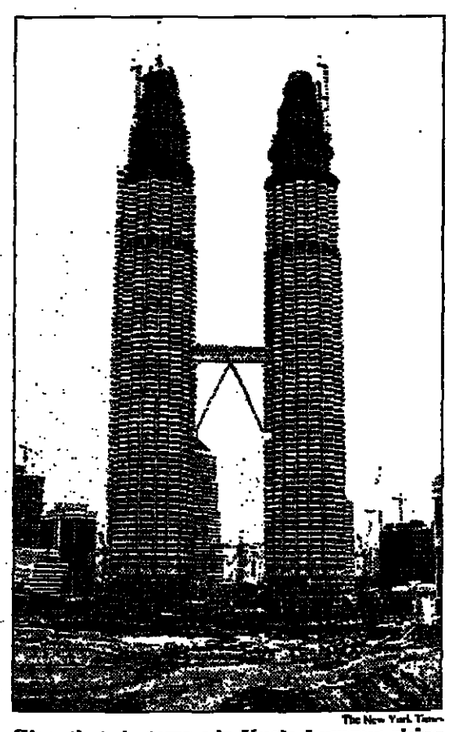
"Merely slowing growth is not the answer, since many countries with slow growth have also been faced with balance-of-payment deficits," he told the National Economic Forum. Rather, he said, growth must continue at a high pace.

"The ultimate objective that we should aim for is a Malaysia that is a fully developed country by the year 2020," he proclaimed recently on, appropriately enough, his own home page of the World Wide Web. Dubbed *Wawasan* 2020, or Vision 2020, this is an ever-present goal, emblazoned on billboards and the sides of buses and in countless slick pamphlets.

But it is a goal that may prove painfully elusive, some economists and financial observers say.

"It's anybody's guess whether this kind of growth

See MALAYSIA, Page 4



The New York Times

Gigantic twin towers in Kuala Lumpur rising as symbols of a building frenzy in Malaysia.

AGENDA



AP

Mr. Kelly dancing in the 1952 movie "Singin' in the Rain."

Gene Kelly Is Dead at 83

Gene Kelly, the dancer and choreographer who brought his athletic grace and Irish charm to "Singin' in the Rain," "On the Town" and other great movie musicals of the 1940s and '50s, died Friday in Los Angeles. He was 83 and had recently suffered strokes.

In addition to starring in musicals like "An American in Paris," "Cover Girl," and "Anchors Aweigh," Mr. Kelly danced on Broadway, had serious movie roles and directed "Hello, Dolly!" and other films. (Page 4)

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Christopher Hopes to Bring Bosnia Factions to Heel

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

WASHINGTON — Secretary of State Warren M. Christopher left Friday on his first postwar trip to the Balkans, part of an effort to pressure Bosnia's rival factions to comply with the Dayton peace pact.

U.S. officials say they are mostly satisfied with the military aspects of the deal, struck in November, but are concerned about civilian issues.

As a result, Mr. Christopher will urge Serbs, Muslims and Croats to cooperate with the Bosnia war crimes investigation, release the scores of war prisoners of war estimated still held by Bosnia factions, and move toward elections that could make Bosnia a multicultural democracy.

"We're determined that the agreement not fray," said a State Department spokesman, Nicholas Burns.

Mr. Christopher's first stop is Zagreb, where he will talk with the Croatian president, Franjo Tudjman.

He is then scheduled to visit U.S. troops in Tuzla, who make up one-third of the 60,000-member NATO peacekeeping force in Bosnia, and to meet Bosnian leaders, including President Alija Izetbegovic in Sarajevo.

On Sunday, he is to hold talks with the Serbian president, Slobodan Milosevic, in Belgrade.

President Bill Clinton briefly visited Bosnia last month to show support for U.S. troops. Mr. Christopher's focus is expected to be more on the peace deal's fine points.

Bosnia's Muslim-dominated government is expected to press Mr. Christopher to use his influence with Mr. Milosevic to avert a mass exodus of Serbs from Sarajevo.

A Foreign Ministry spokesman, Mirza Hajric, said he hoped Mr. Christopher would urge Serbian leaders to convince fearful Serbs that they will be safe when their districts return to Bosnian government control at midnight Friday.

Many Serbs say they fear reprisals from Bosnian Muslims, and their fears have been compounded by the failure of the Bosnian Parliament to pass an amnesty for Serbian soldiers.

The commander of the NATO peace force, Admiral Leighton Smith, has predicted that as many as 60 percent of Sarajevo's Serbs would flee the capital.

The problem facing the Bosnian government, detested by many Serbs, is "practically, how do we go about putting pressure on Serb authorities to let their population stay?" Mr. Hajric said.

The day before, elite French commandos shot and killed a Serbian sniper in NATO's second robust response in two days to accord violations.

The sniper and his captured accomplice were carrying Serbian military papers but were dressed as civilians, said a peace force spokesman, Lieutenant Colonel Mark Rayner. French special forces killed the gunman Thursday in Ilidza, a Serb-held suburb of Sarajevo. It is the first time the NATO forces have confirmed killing someone since moving into Bosnia in December.

The action followed an incident Wednesday in which U.S. warplanes buzzed Bosnian government forces who had breached the demilitarized zone between the former warring parties outside the southwestern city of Mostar.

Bosnian soldiers handed over their weapons to Spanish troops and withdrew after the jets showed up. The incident marked the first time a NATO ground commander had requested air support. *(Reuters, AFP)*

BRIEFLY EUROPE



Benoit Doppagne/Reuters

Mr. Kohl receiving an honorary doctorate Friday.

Kohl Calls for EU Harmony

LEUVEN, Belgium — Chancellor Helmut Kohl of Germany warned Friday that unless there was greater harmony in the European Union, it risked taking a huge step backward.

"If the drive to continue unification falters then it will not just be a standstill but a reverse," Mr. Kohl said as he received an honorary doctorate from the Catholic University of Leuven.

"If we are thrown back now on the way to Europe it would take substantially longer than one generation until we get such a chance again," he said. *(Reuters)*

British Party Leader Is Target

YEOVIL, England — A car owned by the leader of the Liberal Democrat party was destroyed by fire Friday, and the police say they are looking for two suspected arsonists. No one was hurt in the attack.

A party official said she suspected that the attack, and two others against the party leader, Paddy Ashdown, were linked to his investigation of racial tension in the town.

The attacks came after Mr. Ashdown, whose party has 25 seats in the 651-member House of Commons, started investigating attacks on an Indian restaurant near the party headquarters in Yeovil, 130 miles (210 kilometers) west of London. *(AP)*

'Sex Tour' Bill Clears Hurdle

LONDON — A bill that would ban the organization of "sex tours," in which Britons visit child prostitutes in foreign countries, cleared a crucial hurdle Friday, winning unanimous backing after a debate in the House of Commons.

"This bill will not eradicate sex tourism," said its sponsor, John Marshall, a Conservative. "But it will be a valuable addition in the battle against this evil trade."

The bill will now be studied by a parliamentary committee and then go before both houses of Parliament for a final vote. *(Reuters)*

Debate Over Austrian Grave

VIENNA — Experts continued their dispute Friday over a mass grave found near a former concentration camp in Austria.

An Israeli forensic expert, Shalom Fried, argues that the human remains dug out of frozen soil in northern Austria belong to Jews who died in a Nazi concentration camp, while a German specialist, Horst Littmann, says the skull shapes and teeth of the 15 bodies unearthed so far show the dead were German soldiers who probably died of typhoid in a nearby U.S. prisoner of war camp.

But the chief doctor at the institute of forensic medicine examining the remains faulted Mr. Littmann's analysis, saying it was not scientifically based and did not accord with the bones inspected so far. *(Reuters)*

2 Germans Arrested in Brazil

BRASILIA — Two German students are in jail in northeastern Brazil after being arrested on a remote estate at the center of a land dispute, a judge said on Friday.

Selma Donkel, 19, and Cristina Seidl, 21, were arrested Wednesday with four land rights activists and a farmer for trespassing on the estate near Souza, in Paraiba state, Judge Wilson Bezerra said.

The Reverend Anastacio Ribeiro, a priest with the Roman Catholic Church's Pastoral Land Commission in Paraiba, said the group had been arrested while visiting an encampment of about 250 landless families seeking to settle on the unused estate. *(Reuters)*

For Scotland Yard, Some Success With DNA

By Fred Barbash
Washington Post Service

LONDON — Mass DNA screening, increasingly popular among police in search of suspects in Britain, has produced arrests in three highly publicized crimes recently, including charges brought in a Welsh rape-murder following DNA sampling of about 2,000 men.

The technique involves taking "voluntary" blood or saliva samples from large groups of people, usually men from the neighborhood closest to the crime scene, constructing DNA profiles from them and comparing them with similar DNA evidence — an assailant's blood or semen or hair — taken from the crime victim.

Such sweeping forensic methods have not been used in the United States, where most lawyers believe they would run afoul of the Bill of Rights protection against unreasonable search and seizure. American courts generally require police to have evidence against a specific individual before seeking blood, hair or saliva samples, such as that used in the O.J. Simpson case. In Britain, where there is no such bill of rights, police have much broader leeway.

In a related development, authorities in Scotland on Thursday exhumed the body of a man dead 15 years to determine through DNA testing whether he was a notorious 1960s Glasgow serial killer nicknamed "Bible John" for his supposed habit of quoting the Bible to his victims.

The arrest in Wales came in the case of Claire Hood, 15, who was raped and killed 13 months ago in a wooded area in a Cardiff neighborhood called St. Mellons.

Stumped for solid clues, but in possession of a DNA profile taken from the assailant's semen, investigators went door to door in the St. Mellon's neighborhood starting last spring, inviting men to a makeshift laboratory to submit blood and saliva samples.

DNA is the chemical that codes or instructs the genes in the human body. Its pattern is unique to each individual and can be deciphered from virtually any cell, and thus from hair, semen, saliva, bones, or any bodily remnant, dead or alive.

British law does not permit compulsory sampling. But the South Wales Constabulary made it clear that anyone who refused would become the subject of intense police interest. Detective Superintendent Colin Jones, who was in charge of the investigation, said Thursday that no one refused to produce a sample, including a 19-year-old neighbor of Miss Hood's who has been charged with the crime.

While declining to say whether the man's DNA profile matched the crime-scene evidence, Mr. Jones said that "it showed that he could not be eliminated" as a suspect.

The man's sample, the chief superintendent said, was the only one of the thousands taken that produced such a result.

After questioning, authorities charged Neil Owen, a computer student at a local college. He is being held without bail.

After the arrest, Mr. Owen's family was given police protection after a crowd of teenagers gathered near the house and smashed a window with a brick.

Mass DNA screening was first used successfully in Britain to solve a 1986 rape-murder in the English Midlands. That case became the subject of a book by Joseph Wambaugh called "The Blooding."

Since then, especially with the improvement of DNA analysis, the practice has become more common.

In addition, the British government has opened a DNA bank for storage of profiles of hundreds of thousands of people who have been suspects or defendants in burglaries or violent crimes.

In October, police near Birmingham selected 800 men for sampling in a search — which has since produced an arrest — for the person who killed and sexually assaulted 15-year-old Naomi Smith.

The month before, a man in Derby pleaded guilty to three rapes after being identified through a DNA sampling of 150 men who lived in a particular housing development.

Scotland Yard, London's police department, has been employing similar DNA "fingerprinting" to find a suspect in the rape of a woman who was kidnapped from a telephone booth in central London and raped at knife point in Regent's Park here.

While mass DNA screening has received considerable publicity in Britain, there has been little objection voiced to it, either from those screened or from civil liberties organizations, which accept the government interpretation that it is a voluntary process.

Maccanico Lining Up A Cabinet For Italy

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

ROME — The prime minister-designate, Antonio Maccanico, began efforts Friday to form a government to oversee reforms to stabilize the Italian political system.

Mr. Maccanico, a discreet political insider with expertise in institutional reforms, met with party leaders through the morning. Politicians leaving the talks said Mr. Maccanico was expected to work through the weekend on a proposed program.

After Mr. Maccanico, 71, comes up with a cabinet list, Parliament must vote its approval of his government.

President Oscar Luigi Scalfaro's selection Thursday of Mr. Maccanico ended three weeks of a political logjam that followed the expected resignation of Prime Minister Lamberto Dini, who stepped down Jan. 11, saying his limited mandate had been completed.

If Mr. Maccanico succeeds in forming a government — by no means a given — it would by Italy's 55th since the end of World War II.

Mr. Maccanico's chances of success have been aided by signs of consensus between the rival center-right and center-left blocs on the need for Parliament to revise the Italian Constitution radically to achieve the political stability that has eluded the country.

They are now working toward a compromise deal to introduce a modified French-style presidential system to give Italy efficient and durable government, but few of the key players believe agreement will be simple to secure.

For Mr. Maccanico to succeed, the rivals will also have to overcome deep differences on the economy, including on the shape of what is likely to be a tough budget for 1997 to allow Italy to meet the conditions for joining a single European currency.

"Maccanico knows full well that to govern with a broad coalition is more difficult that to lead a simple majority," a commentator, Marcello Sorgi, wrote in La Stampa newspaper.

The emerging compromise on reform, which would take 18 to 24 months for Parliament to enact, came about after deadlock on the blocs' own competing proposals, which threatened to plunge Italy into a general election three years ahead of schedule. *(AP, Reuters)*

Ciller Gives Up Attempt at Coalition in Turkey

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

ANKARA — Prime Minister Tansu Ciller on Friday abandoned attempts to form a government with the center-right Motherland Party. The Motherland leader, Mesut Yilmaz, "rejected all my offers," Mrs. Ciller said at the end of a 40-minute meeting with her rival.

She said she would formally notify President Suleyman Demirel on Saturday of her failure to form a government.

Mr. Demirel said Friday that he would designate Mr. Yilmaz next. Motherland has 133 deputies in Parliament.

Mr. Yilmaz said he turned down Mrs. Ciller because she insisted on remaining prime minister. She is serving in a caretaker capacity now.

Mrs. Ciller's True Path Party came in second in general elections six weeks ago, behind the pro-Islamic regime Welfare Party.

Welfare's 158 deputies in the 550-member Parliament are far fewer than the required majority of 276 to form a government alone. Mrs. Ciller received the mandate after the Welfare leader, Necmettin Erbakan, failed to form a coalition. Both Mrs. Ciller and Mr. Yilmaz rejected Welfare for its anti-secularist policies.

Mrs. Ciller had offered Motherland a coalition in which both the prime minister and the deputy prime minister, two posts that would have been shared by the two leaders, would have equal responsibilities.

Mrs. Ciller said that Mr. Yilmaz turned her down because he was inclined to form a coalition government with Welfare.

"We have not ruled out coalition partnership with Welfare although it is going to be very difficult to reach common ground with it," Mr. Yilmaz said. Political analysts believe a coalition with Motherland would prevent Welfare from making radical changes in Turkey's secularist structure.

Turkey has been virtually rudderless since Mrs. Ciller's right-left coalition collapsed on Sept. 20 and led to inconclusive elections in December, in which the Islamists came first but failed to find coalition partners.

Mrs. Ciller has presided as caretaker as Turkey faced a series of troubles — the latest a stand-off with Greece over a lonely pile of rocks in the Aegean off Turkey's southwestern coast. Both countries withdrew on Wednesday. *(AP, Reuters)*

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PARIS and SUBURBS

EMMANUEL BAPTIST CHURCH, 56 Rue des Bons-Raisins, Rueil-Malmaison. An Evangelical church for the English speaking community located in the western suburbs.S.S. 9:45; Worship: 10:45. Children's Church and Nursery. Youth ministries Rev. Scott Staar Man. Call 47.51.29.63 or 47.49.15.29 for information.

HOPE INTERNATIONAL CHURCH Hotel Onon at Paris-la-Défense. 8 bd. de Neuilly. The Christian & Missionary Alliance. Sundays 9:30 a.m. Worship service in English. Sunday school for children. Bible study - Prayer groups - Evangelism - Discipleship - Marriage and Family counselling. Rev. Douglas Miller. Pastor. Tel.: 43.33.04.06. Métro 1 to Esplanade la Défense: Sortie Esplanade. At surface level, turn right, then first left toward UAP bldg. Ask at Onon Hotel.

SAINT JOSEPH'S CHURCH (Roman Catholic). Masses: Sunday: 9:45 & 11:00 a.m., 12:15 & 6:30 p.m.; Saturday: 11:00 a.m. & 6:30 p.m.; Monday to Friday: 8:30 a.m. 50, avenue Hoche, Paris 8th. Tel.: 42.27.28 56. Metro: Charles de Gaulle - Etoile

ST. MICHAEL'S CHURCH (evangelical Anglican). Sundays 10:30 a.m. (with children's club and creche) and 6:30 p.m. Midweek study groups. Christ-centered fellowship in the heart of Paris. 5 rue d'Agueesseau, 75008. Tel.: 47.42.70.88. Metro: Concorde.

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THE EPISCOPAL CHURCHES OF EUROPE (Anglican)

PARIS and SUBURBS

THE AMERICAN CATHEDRAL OF THE HOLY TRINITY, Sun. 9 & 11 a.m., 10:45 a.m. Sunday School for children and Nursery care. Third Sunday 5 p.m. Evensong. 23, avenue George V, Paris 75008. Tel.: 33/1 47 20 17 92. Metro: George V or Alma Marceau.

FLORENCE

ST. JAMES' CHURCH, Sun. 9 a.m. Rite I & 11 a.m. Rite II. Via Bernardo Rucellai 9, 50123, Florence, Italy. Tel.: 39/55 29 44 17.

FRANKFURT

CHURCH OF CHRIST THE KING (Episcopal/Anglican) Sun. Holy Communion 9 & 11 a.m. Sunday School and Nursery 10:45 a.m. Sebastian Rinz St. 22, 60323 Frankfurt, Germany, U1, 2, 3 Miquel-Allee. Tel: 49/69 55 01 84.

GENEVA

EMMANUEL CHURCH, 1st & 3rd Sun. 10 a.m. Eucharist; 2nd & 4th Sun. Morning Prayer. 3 rue de Monthoux, 1201 Geneva, Switzerland. Tel.: 41/22 832 80 78.

MUNICH

THE CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION, Sun. 11:45 a.m. Holy Eucharist and Sunday School. Nursery Care provided. Seybothstrasse 4, 81545 Munich (Harlaching), Germany. Tel.: 49/89 64 81 85.

ROME

ST. PAUL'S WITHIN-THE-WALLS, Sun. 8:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist Rite I; 10:30 a.m. Choral Eucharist Rite II; 10:30 a.m. Church School for children & Nursery care provided; 1 p.m. Spanish Eucharist. Via Napoli 58, 00184 Rome. Tel.: 39/6 488 3339 or 39/6 474 3569.

BRUSSELS/WATERLOO

ALL SAINTS' CHURCH, 1st Sun. 9 & 11:15 a.m. Holy Eucharist with Children's Chapel at 11:15. All other Sundays: 11:15 a.m. Holy Eucharist and Sunday School. 563 Chaussée de Louvain, Ohain, Belgium. Tel. 32/2 384-3556.

WIESBADEN

THE CHURCH OF ST. AUGUSTINE OF CANTERBURY, Sun. 10 a.m. Family Eucharist. Frankfurter Strasse 3, Wiesbaden, Germany. Tel.: 49/611.30.66.74.

EUROPEAN BAPTIST CONVENTION

BERLIN

I.B.C., BERLIN. Rothenburg Str. 13, (Steglitz). Bible study 10.45, worship at 12.00 each Sunday. James Heflin, pastor. Tel.: 030-774-4670.

BONN/KÖLN

I.B.C. OF BONN/KÖLN, Rheneu Strasse 9, Köln. Worship 1:00 p.m. Calvin Hogue, Pastor Tel.: (02236) 47021.

BREMEN

I.B.C. (English language) meets at Evangelish-Freikirchich Kreuzgemeinde, Hohenlohestrasse Hermann-Bose-Str. (around the corner from the Bahnhof) sunday worship 17:00, Pastor Steve Sligh, Tel. 04791-12877.

BUCHAREST

I.B.C., Sirada Popa Rusu 22. 3.00 p.m. Contact Pastor Mike Kemper. Tel 312 3980

BUDAPEST

I.B.C., meets in Morics Zsigmond Gimnazium, Torokvasz ut 48-54, Sundays. 10:00 Coffee Fellowship, 10:30 Worship. Take Bus 11 from Batthyany ter. Other meetings, call Pastor Bob Zbinden, Tel. 250-3932.

BULGARIA

I.B.C., World Trade Center, 36, Drahan Tzankov Blvd. Worship 11:00. James Duke, Pastor. Tel.: 669 666.

CELLE/HANNOVER

I.B.C., Windmulen Strasse 45, Celle 1300 Worship, 1400 Bible Study. Pastor James Wilson. Ph. (05141) 46416.

EINDHOVEN

ENGLISH-LANGUAGE SERVICES, Sun. 10:30 a.m. 6 p.m. (Sun. School (9:30 a.m.) Geestakker 546. Eindhoven. Info 040-542231 / 839965.

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BETHEL I.B.C. Am Dachsberg 92, Frankfurt a.M. Sunday worship 11:00 a.m. and 6.00 p.m., Dr. Thomas W. Hill, pastor. Tel.: 069-549559.

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KIEV

I.B.C. English Language Service. 10:00 at 3-a Tolstoga Str. (Metro same). Pastor Buddy Barnett. ph. 269-8148.

LISBON

I.B.C. Second Floor of Third Baptist Church, Rua Filipe Folque 36, 19:30 hours, Pastor Steve Ford, Tel.: 418-5138.

MOSCOW

I.B.C. Meeting 1100; Kino Center Building 15 DruzDruzhinnikovskaya UL 5th Floor, Hall 6, Metro Station Bamkadnaya Pastor Don Deal, Tel.: (095) 971 3558.

MUNICH

I.B.C. Holzstr. 9 English Language Services. Bible study 15:45. Worship Service 17:00. Pastor's phone: (089) 690 8534.

NICE - FRANCE

I.B.C. 13 rue Verner. English service. Sunday evening 1800. pastor Ray Miller - Tel.: (093) 320 596.

PRAGUE

INTERNATIONAL BAPTIST FELLOWSHIP meets at the Czech Baptist Church Vinohradska # 68, Prague 3. At metro stop Jiriho Podebrad Sunday a.m. 11:00 Pastor Al mayor. Tel.: (02) 311 7974.

WATERLOO

WATERLOO BAPTIST FELLOWSHIP Worship 1400 at Swedish Church, Chaussee de Charleroi 2 across from McDonalds. Tel.: 085 225076.

ZURICH - SWITZERLAND

I.B.C of Wädenswil (Zürich), Rosenbergst. 4, 8820 Wädenswill, Worship Services Sunday mornings 11:00. Tel.: 1-4810018.

ASSOC. OF INT'L CHURCHES

BERLIN

AMERICAN CHURCH IN BERLIN, cor. of Clay Allee & Potsdamer Str., S.S. 9:30 a.m., Worship 11 a.m. Tel.: 030-8132021.

COPENHAGEN

INTERNATIONAL CHURCH of Copenhagen, 27 Farvergade, Vaslov, near Rådhus. Study 10:15 & Worship 11:30. Tel.: 31624785.

FRANKFURT

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH, Nibelungen Allee 54 (Across from Burger Hospital), Worship 11 a.m. w/Child care. Tel.: (069) 589478 or 512552.

GENEVA

EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH of Geneva, 20 rue Verdaine. Sunday worship 9:30, in German 11:00 in English. Tel: (022) 310.50.89.

JERUSALEM

LUTHERAN CHURCH of the Redeemer, Old City, Munstan Rd. English worship Sun. 9 a.m. All are welcome. Tel.: (02) 281-049.

LUZERN

INT'L CHURCH, ENGLISH SPEAKING. Interdenominational, Sundays 11 a.m Zähringerstr. 7. Tel: (041) 420-4228.

PARIS

AMERICAN CHURCH IN PARIS. Worship 11:00 a.m. 65, Quai d'Orsay, Paris 7. Bus 63 at door. Metro Alma-Marceau or Invalides.

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VIENNA COMMUNITY CHURCH. Sunday worship in English 11:30 A.M., Sunday school, nursery, International, all denominations welcome. Dorotheergasse 18, Vienna 1.

ZURICH

INTERNATIONAL PROTESTANT CHURCH English speaking, worship service, Sunday School & Nursery, Sundays 11:30 a.m., Schanzengasse 25. Tel.: (01) 2625525.

SYNAGOGUES IN EUROPE

BRUSSELS

SYNAGOGUE BETH HILLEL, Communauté Israélite Libérale de Belgque, Avenue de Kersbeek, 96, 1190 Brussels. Rabbi Albert Dahan. Tel.: 32-2-332.25.28. Fax: 32-2-376.72.19.

U.K. Seat Retained By Labor

Agence France-Presse

HEMSWORTH, England — The opposition Labor Party easily won a by-election held in this northern English mining town with nearly 70 percent of the overall vote, reducing Prime Minister John Major's majority in Parliament to just four votes.

Jon Trickett took the seat — left vacant by the death last year of the Labor member, Derek Enright — with 15,817 votes, a majority of 13,875 over the Tories, who came second with 1,942 votes in a turnout of 39.5 percent, official results showed.

Mr. Enright had had a majority of 22,075 votes after the 1992 general election, when about twice as many voters went to the polls.

The Liberal Democrats trailed in third place with 1,516, beating the new breakaway Socialist Labor Party's candidate by just 323 votes.

A jubilant Mr. Trickett said after the results were announced that "the people of Hemsworth have given a very clear message tonight."

"Hemsworth now stands totally behind Tony Blair's drive to modernize Britain," he added. "Hemsworth has tonight spoken for the nation." Mr. Blair is the leader of the Labor Party.

The deputy Labor leader, John Prescott, said that "despite 10 candidates in the field," Labor still got "a bigger share of the vote" than in the 1992 general election.

The Labor Party brought its big guns to this West Yorkshire town earlier in the week, where an otherwise mundane by-election — with Labor the odds-on favorite to win — shaped up as a litmus test of the main opposition party's mettle under fire.

TRAVEL UPDATE

German-U.S. Air Accord

BONN (AP) — Germany said Friday that it had reached an agreement in principle with the United States on lifting restrictions on airlines serving the two countries.

But Germany also said it would not sign a new aviation treaty unless Lufthansa and United Airlines, which have had a passenger-sharing partnership since 1994, are granted immunity from U.S. antitrust laws.

The framework of an "open skies" accord between the United States and Germany was unveiled in Bonn by Transportation Minister Matthias Wissmann.

He said U.S. and German negotiators had been working since last summer to hammer out details of a treaty to replace a 1955 accord, based on U.S. postwar occupation rights, which Germany views as unfair. He said that an open skies agreement would help United and Lufthansa broaden their alliance, and that immunity would "guarantee" their development.

Singapore Airlines Grows

SINGAPORE (AFP) — Singapore Airlines said Friday that it would increase flights to destinations around the world in an effort to increase market share.

Singapore Airlines' managing director, Cheong Choong Kong, said that the aviation industry had turned the corner from the recession of the early 1990s and that air traffic forecasts predicted further growth, especially in the Asian-Pacific region. He said the region would have 200 million passengers a year by 2000, up from 112 million travelers in 1993.

The Singapore Airlines network now includes 77 cities in 42 countries. Passenger flight frequencies have increased from 422 weekly roundtrip services in February 1994 to 504 now.

Australian Visas Backed

SYDNEY (AFP) — A parliamentary panel Friday rejected tourism industry calls for visitors to be allowed into Australia without visas, instead suggesting that more care was needed to keep criminals out.

Australia requires all visitors to obtain a visa before arrival, which tourism organizations say deters many vacationers and costs them billions of dollars in lost revenue. But the panel said that there was no evidence that the visa requirements hurt legitimate tourism. More than 3 million people visited Australia in 1994, the latest year for which figures are available.

Heavy snowfall paralyzed transport in Japan on Friday and forecasters predicted more snow over the weekend. The snow impeded train and domestic air travel. *(AFP)*

Officials at the Louvre in Paris said a Sunday of free admission in January to the art museum drew 25,400 people, compared with 14,000 on a normal Sunday. The practice, which saves visitors as much as 40 francs ($8) each, will continue on the first Sunday of every month; the next free day is this Sunday. *(AFP)*

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Secret Memo to Dole Camp Lands Clinton Aide in Hot Water

By Ann Devroy
Washington Post Service

WASHINGTON — President Bill Clinton's top political strategist sent campaign polling data to an adviser to Bob Dole, the Senate majority leader, to try to convince him that his only chance of winning the Iowa and New Hampshire Republican presidential contests was to make a deal with the White House to balance the budget.

In the secret overture to advisers to the Republican presidential front-runner, Dick Morris, a Clinton strategist, said that Mr. Dole should seek a budget deal with or without the support of fellow Republicans. He sent the memo to the Dole campaign on Jan. 25, two days after Mr. Clinton's well-received State of the Union address and Mr. Dole's much criticized response.

Mr. Morris wrote in his memo, "Dole cannot win in either New Hampshire or Iowa UNLESS there is a budget deal." He then cited polling he said showed great political gain by Mr. Dole if he made a deal with Mr. Clinton.

Scott Reed, Mr. Dole's campaign manager, said the overture from Mr. Morris was "immediately rejected" and not even brought up with Mr. Dole. He called it a "cynical attempt to blackmail us into a deal regardless of principle."

The White House press secretary, Michael McCurry, said that Mr. Morris sent the memo without Mr. Clinton's approval and he described the president as "disappointed and angry" when he found out.

"The president categorically did not know that Morris was going to share polling results outside the campaign," the press secretary added. "He did not authorize it and he did not think much of it when he heard about it."

After a Clinton staff member heard rumors about the memo, Mr. Clinton called Mr. Morris twice this week to complain and to insist that it not happen again.

"No one bats a thousand," Mr. McCurry said of Mr. Morris, a veteran political consultant. "But this was a rookie mistake."

Mr. Morris said in a telephone interview Thursday that he was only trying to help Mr. Clinton get what he wants — a balanced budget deal — but that he made a mistake.

"The president chewed me out in several conversations," he said. But he added that if staffs of the White House and Congress can have such conversations, political advisers in different camps ought to be able to do the same.

This is the second case of Mr. Morris directly seeking to influence the campaigns of other potential or announced candidates. Last October, Gordon Black, a consultant to Ross Perot, said Mr. Morris had called him offering help to get Mr. Perot's new political party on the ballot in California. Mr. Morris agreed that they had a conversation but denied Mr. Black's interpretation.

Insurers Protest Health-Care Bill

By Robert Pear
New York Times Service

WASHINGTON — The health insurance industry, which helped kill President Bill Clinton's ambitious health care proposal in 1994, has now objected to a provision of a much more modest bipartisan bill to guarantee coverage for people leaving employer-sponsored health plans.

Mr. Clinton endorsed the bill in his State of the Union message last week, and it was approved unanimously in August by a Senate committee. But the bill, drafted by Senator Nancy L. Kassebaum, Republican of Kansas, and Edward Kennedy, Democrat of Massachusetts, has not been called up for debate on the Senate floor, apparently because several senators have registered informal objections.

Since the demise of Mr. Clinton's proposal, advocates of universal health insurance coverage have decided to pursue their goal through small steps and incremental measures like Mrs. Kassebaum's. In the last Congress, she said, there was "broad bipartisan agreement" on such proposals.

Mrs. Kassebaum said her bill would help millions of Americans who lose health insurance when they change jobs, and she said it would not impose new costs on employers or the government.

The bill would limit the ability of insurers and employers to deny coverage to people because of prior illness or disability.

But Bill Gradison, president of the Health Insurance Association of America, said insurers strenuously objected to one provision of the bill: a requirement that companies selling individual health insurance must offer such policies to people losing group health coverage.

Mr. Gradison said this provision "could trigger a meltdown of the individual insurance market on which 10 million Americans rely." A better way to provide coverage for these people, he said, is through state insurance pools, which offer coverage for people unable to obtain it from other sources.

About half the states have established such pools. Many are financed with special assessments on insurers.

A well-connected health care lobbyist, speaking on the condition of anonymity, said that Mr. Clinton's endorsement could be a "kiss of death" for the bill because Republicans did not want to give him a political victory in an election year.

Mr. Gradison said that the effect of Mrs. Kassebaum's proposal would be "to raise premiums by 10 percent to 30 percent for people who already have individual coverage."

Mrs. Kassebaum rejected his estimate. She said the increase in individual premiums would be no more than 2 to 3 percent.



Gene J. Puskar/The Associated Press

BAD NEWS PHIL — Punxsutawney Phil braving the crowds Friday after emerging from his lair in Punxsutawney, Pennsylvania, on Groundhog Day. Phil cast a shadow, so legend has it that winter has six more weeks to run.

Away From Politics

• **Passenger vehicles with anti-lock brakes have fewer accidents** than those without them, according to a study by auto manufacturers aimed at skeptics in government and insurance companies, one of which has withdrawn its discount for cars equipped with the systems. *(AP)*

• **Sexism still thrives at American law schools** even though nearly half of their students are women, a panel at the American Bar Association reported. "Women continue to encounter significant barriers which prohibit their full and equal participation in law school," the ABA's Commission on Women in the Profession concluded. *(AP)*

• **A 3-week-old boy** in South Bend, Indiana, died of salmonella poisoning that might have been contracted from his family's pet iguana, and health officials warned that other reptile owners could be at risk. While the story of Gaige Becker sounds unusual, U.S. health officials have seen an increase in unusual strains of salmonella as the popularity of pet reptiles — especially iguanas — grows. At least 90 percent of the reptiles carry some strain of the intestinal bacteria. *(AP)*

• **A landmark apartment house** in Santa Monica, California, known in its heyday as the Grand Hotel — and more recently as a flophouse for the homeless — was gutted by fire. No one was injured in the blaze that swept through the 178-unit Sea Castle Apartments and its cause was unknown. *(AP)*

An Upheaval in California?

Right Works to Reshape Trend-Setting State

By Kenneth B. Noble
New York Times Service

LOS ANGELES — Barely a month after Republicans gained control of the state Assembly, party leaders have begun to push through an ambitious hard-right social agenda, bringing the possibility of profound change to California.

This week the Assembly, beginning action on what the Republicans call their "Contract With California," approved a bill that would allow police and sheriff's departments to issue concealed-weapons permits to almost anyone, and one that would put a two-year limit on welfare payments to able-bodied adults. Another would allow the continued use of methyl bromide, a highly toxic insecticide used by farmers.

And in one of the more far-reaching measures, it voted to slash the corporate tax rate by about 20 percent, from 9.3 percent to 7.5 percent.

Whether any of the proposals will ever make their way into law, however, is not clear.

The 40-member state Senate is still controlled by Democrats, many of whom fervently oppose the conservative agenda, and the Republicans there are not counting on much support from their colleagues on the other side of the aisle.

"We're now in the macho stage of kooky ideas, where all of the pent-up energy over the years is pouring out," Bill Lockyer, president pro tem of the Senate and its most powerful Democrat, said to reporters this week.

Eventually, he said, the "extremists" will "settle down and try to get some constructive bipartisan proposals in progress rather than just their right-wing social and economic agenda."

Still, if, as the cliché goes, California leads the nation in trends, the conservative Republican surge here could prove enormously influential, especially given expectations that state governments, rather than the federal government, will take the lead in setting social policy.

California is the largest of the 17 states where one or both legislative chambers have switched from Democratic to Republican control since 1994.

For their part, Republican leaders in the Assembly are almost giddy over their accomplishments so far.

"It's been a joy," Larry Bowler of Elk Grove said. "To finally matter is just exhilarating. We've got 25 years of destruction we're trying to correct as quickly as we can."

Mr. Bowler's remark was a not-so-subtle dig at Willie L. Brown Jr., the former speaker of the Assembly who, with almost contemptuous magnanimity, regularly outmaneuvered his Republican opponents.

Indeed, during Mr. Brown's long reign in Sacramento, it would have been virtually unthinkable for most of these Republican proposals to have reached the Assembly floor.

But all of that changed when Mr. Brown was sworn in earlier this month as mayor of San Francisco after being forced by California's new term-limits law to leave the Assembly after 30 years as a member, the last 14 as its speaker.

The redoubtable Mr. Brown, an ardent advocate for liberal causes, was replaced by Curt Pringle, a 36-year-old former drapery salesman from Orange County, a citadel of Republican conservatism. He is the first speaker in 25 years elected with the majority support of Republicans, who hold 41 seats in the 80-member Assembly.

But while Mr. Brown's retirement has certainly energized the Republicans, it is not the only locomotive driving the new agenda.

Perhaps of more profound impact, political analysts said, are the term limits. The legislature is now stocked with short-termers, who are much more inclined than their predecessors to go with the flow when faced with a public clamoring for tax relief and get-tough measures against crime.

"What's going on in the Assembly now is a miniature version of what went on in Congress after the '94 elections," said Bruce Cain, associate director of the Institute for Government Studies at the University of California at Berkeley.

"In previous years," he said, "extreme bills have been stopped in the legislative process. But if the Republicans get complete control of the Assembly, the Senate and the governorship, then these bills could be a taste of the future."

Congress's Testy Reaction to Chirac

By Thomas W. Lippman and John E. Yang
Washington Post Service

WASHINGTON — President Jacques Chirac of France, on his first state visit to Washington, encountered some empty seats as he addressed a joint meeting of Congress; his appearance was boycotted by some who objected to France's nuclear testing policy.

But he shrugged off the protest Thursday and went on to talks with President Bill Clinton, in which the two leaders said they saw eye to eye on such issues as the future of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, the importance of aid to developing countries and the need to offer assistance to struggling countries in Africa.

"There is fundamental agreement between us on most of the subjects we talked about," Mr. Chirac said.

The same could not be said about Congress, where Mr. Chirac — the first French president to make a state visit here in 12 years — found some seats empty and others filled by pages and staff members filling in for members who declined to hear his speech.

Some members had left Washington to campaign or visit their home districts, congressional aides said. Some stayed away because they knew Mr. Chirac was going to urge them to spend more on foreign aid. But most of the missing were boycotting because of France's recent nuclear tests in the South Pacific — tests that Mr. Chirac has said will be France's last.

Leaders of congressional Asian-Pacific, Black and Hispanic caucuses and of the Progressive Caucus, a group of liberal House Democrats, organized the boycott.

The lawmakers objected that Mr. Chirac was allowed to "use the revered, respected forum to come forth and express the views of his people," said Representative Patsy T. Mink, Democrat of Hawaii, who sponsored the boycott. "That offends the dignity and integrity of the House of Representatives."

Some lawmakers said they were particularly offended by Mr. Chirac's embrace of a proposed, U.S.-sponsored treaty banning tests once France's own tests were completed.

"We return the insult with an insult of our own," said Eleanor Holmes Norton, a Democrat representing the District of Columbia.

The House speaker, Newt Gingrich, Republican of Georgia, said Mr. Chirac's embrace of the test ban treaty made it hard for him to understand why anyone would want to boycott the French president's speech. "The very people who were mad at him should have been here applauding him," he said.

In his meeting with Mr. Clinton, Mr. Chirac said nothing about the boycott and gave no indication he was aware of it, officials said. At the joint news conference, he seemed determined to avoid sour notes and observed that he had "no intention of injecting myself into American politics."

POLITICAL NOTES

Clinton May Get Day in Court

WASHINGTON — One of President Bill Clinton's former Whitewater partners has asked a federal judge to compel Mr. Clinton to testify as a defense witness at her coming fraud trial.

If the request is granted by a federal judge in Little Rock, Arkansas, Mr. Clinton could be forced to testify just as his presidential campaign swings into high gear.

The fraud trial of James and Susan McDougal, the Clintons' business partners in the Whitewater land venture, and Governor Jim Guy Tucker of Arkansas is set to begin in federal court March 4. On Thursday, Bobby R. McDaniel, one of Mrs. McDougal's lawyers, requested the subpoena.

Asked to comment, Mr. Clinton said, "I can't comment on it because I don't know what the facts are."

Presidents Jimmy Carter and Gerald R. Ford both provided videotaped testimony in criminal trials concerning matters unrelated to their actions as president. President Ronald Reagan gave a videotaped deposition in the Iran-Contra prosecution of John M. Poindexter, a former national security adviser. *(NYT)*

To Chirac, a Presidential Gift

WASHINGTON — An exchange of presents is a matter of routine during state visits, but President Clinton's gift to President Jacques Chirac of France bore the aura of high technology. He gave him a teleprompter.

White House staff members said that when Mr. Clinton addressed the French Parliament last year after attending ceremonies in Normandy on the 50th anniversary of D-Day some were startled to see him speak without notes.

But he actually read the speech from the next-to-invisible White House teleprompter. The gift teleprompter is being presented jointly to Mr. Chirac and the French National Assembly. *(AP)*

'No Free Candy,' Perot Says

DES MOINES — With the Iowa caucuses just over a week away, Ross Perot criticized both Mr. Clinton and Republican congressional leaders in a speech to the Chamber of Commerce here.

Mr. Perot said Thursday that Mr. Clinton "never had a plan to balance the budget" when in 1993 the president put forth a "deficit reduction plan." The drive to cut taxes, led by House Republicans, "is free candy" just before elections. "But you and I," Mr. Perot said, "are both going to let them know there is no free candy." *(WP)*

Quote/Unquote

Senator Richard G. Lugar, running for the Republican presidential nomination, talking with voters in Iowa about his Indiana farm: "It's not a hobby farm. We make money every year. We take it very seriously." *(NYT)*

Dining Out

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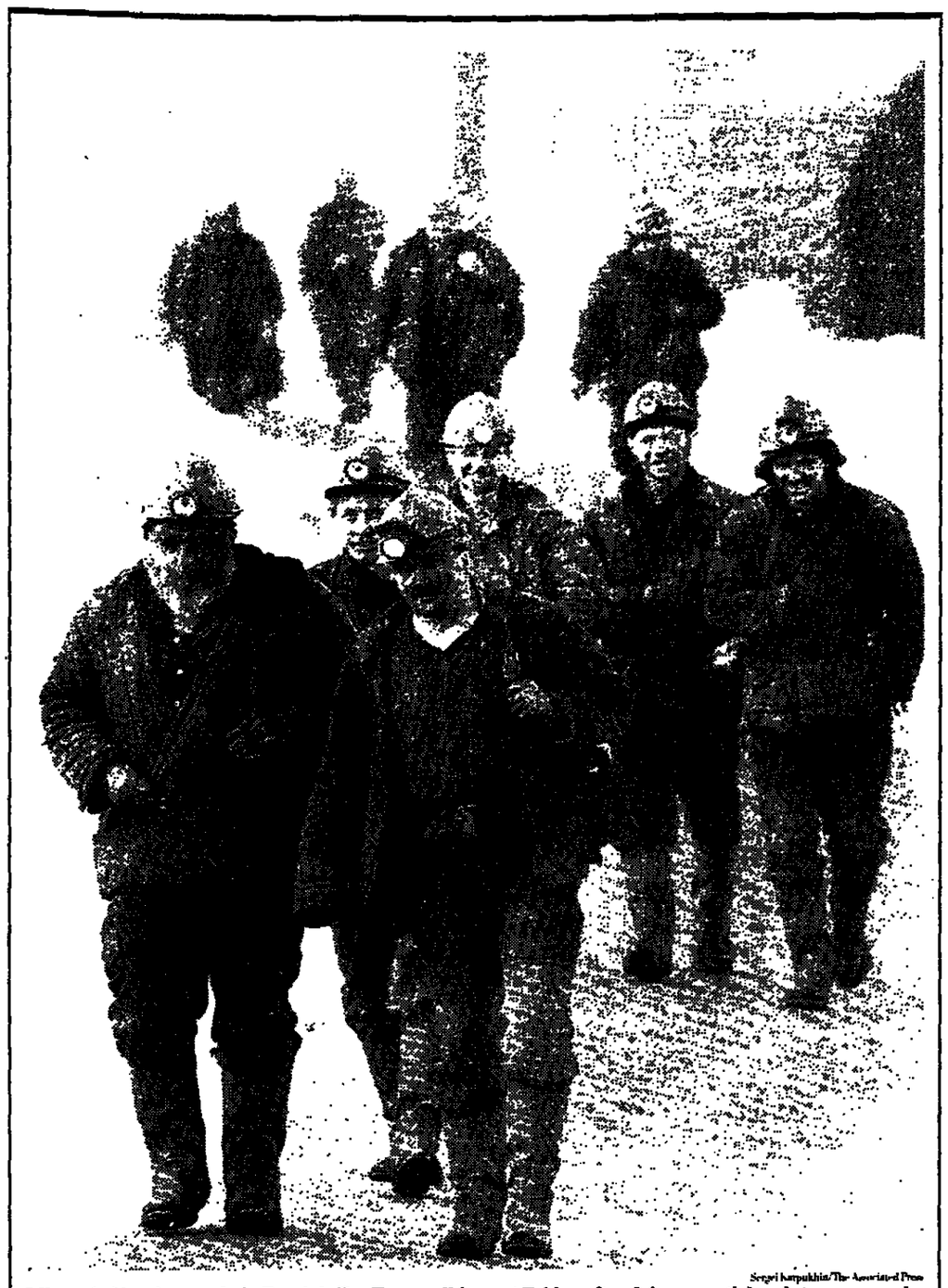
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Sergei Ilnitsky/The Associated Press

Miners in Novokuznetsk, in Russia's Far East, walking out Friday after doing essential maintenance work.

Ukraine Curbs Foreign Adoptions

Move Aimed at Halting Illegal Sales of Babies to West

By James Rupert
Washington Post Service

WASHINGTON — Ukraine's Parliament has clamped restrictions on international adoption of Ukrainian babies, amid a scandal in which doctors there face trial on charges of stealing newborns and selling them for adoption, mostly in the United States.

The Parliament's action Tuesday in Kiev, the capital, effectively barred adoptions to Western nations, where hundreds of couples have adopted Ukrainian children since the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991. Investigators in the western city of Lviv said recently that Americans helped fuel the theft, purchase and illegal export of babies by paying tens of thousands of dollars each to adopt Ukrainian infants.

Investigators and doctors in Lviv said the smuggling operation often put babies' health at risk. Prosecutors there said they would seek to interview Americans who have adopted Ukrainian children.

Public uproar in Ukraine over foreign adoptions, and the role of American couples in particular, has been fueled since October by the effort of a Massachusetts couple to send back to Lviv a 3-year-old boy they adopted shortly after his birth. The couple said they can no longer afford to pay for treatment of the child's medical problems. Investigators in Lviv in December said they suspect the adoption violated Ukrainian law.

Ukrainian officials say they are investigating hundreds of adoptions by foreigners between 1992 and mid-1994. Of about 130 adoptions being studied most intensively, more than 70 were by American couples and about 50 by Canadians or Italians, officials said.

When the scandal began to surface in 1994, Ukraine's legislature suspended foreign adoptions. On Tuesday, the legislature passed a law permitting adoptions to resume but barring any role for foreign adoption agencies or nonprofit organizations. The Reuters news agency quoted legislators as saying adoptions would be allowed only to nations that sign agreements on protecting adopted children, which at present means only some former East bloc countries.

Ukraine's baby scandal illustrates some problems in international adoptions, according to adoption specialists. In economically depressed countries, notably those of the former East bloc, "international adoptions can look an awful lot like procurement of babies for Americans," said Anne Sullivan of the Washington-based Child Welfare League of America, an advocacy group.

In some cases in Ukraine, American parents "offered as much as $100,000 for babies," said an investigator in Lviv. "What did they think such sums were going for?" another investigator asked. "They seemed to close their eyes" to evidence of irregularities in many cases, he said. The investigators spoke on condition they not be named.

Gene Kelly, Cinematic Dancer, Dies

Reuters

LOS ANGELES — Gene Kelly, the dancer and choreographer best known for his work in "Singin' in the Rain" and "An American in Paris," has died, local television reported. He was 83.

He had recently suffered a series of strokes.

■ Singular Style

A gifted dancer with his own vibrantly masculine style, Gene Kelly flourished also as an innovative choreographer and director in the 1940s and 1950s, the heyday of the big, splashy Hollywood musical, The New York Times said.

Mr. Kelly, who could also put over a song in a huskily soft voice, brought to his films an inventive technique and created unusual and imaginative dance routines.

Thus, millions of moviegoers remember Mr. Kelly dancing merrily in a downpour in "Singin' in the Rain," hoofing with an animated mouse in "Anchors Aweigh," hopping over garbage cans in a sequence in "It's Always Fair Weather" and, with the aid of special process photography, dancing with himself in the famous "alter ego" number from "Cover Girl."

In addition to his movies, which included "An American in Paris," "On the Town," "The Pirate" and the drama "Inherit the Wind," Mr. Kelly also worked on Broadway, where he created the title role of the heel-hero "Pal Joey," choreographed "Best Foot Forward" and directed Rodgers and Hammerstein's "Flower Drum Song."

"I don't really know why I clicked," Mr. Kelly said many years later. "I didn't want to be a dancer. I just did it to work my way through college. But I was always an athlete and gymnast, so it came naturally."

Eugene Curran Kelly was born Aug. 23, 1912, in Pittsburgh, where his mother owned a dancing school.

But Mr. Kelly did not decide to try his luck in New York until 1938, when he was 27 years old. His first job was as a Broadway chorus boy in 1938's "Leave It to Me," dancing while Mary Martin sang "My Heart Belongs to Daddy," but the following year he won critical acclaim for his role as the comic hoofer in William Saroyan's "The Time of Your Life."

That success led to his being cast in "Pal Joey," the 1940 Rodgers and Hart musical, in which he played the unscrupulous central character so convincingly that John Martin, a critic for The New York Times, said, "He is not only glib-footed, but he has a feeling for comment and content that give his dancing personal distinction and raise it several notches as a dancing art."

In 1941 he left for Hollywood, where he was to bring a new vitality to dance on film and help change the whole concept of movie musicals.

His first film, in 1942, was "For Me and My Gal," in which he starred as a small-time vaudeville hoofer opposite Judy Garland. With the 1944 film "Cover Girl," his career brightened further.

Mr. Kelly's choreographic inventiveness was credited with the success of the trail-blazing live-dance-with-animation sequence in "Anchors Aweigh" in 1945. He had to convince MGM officials that they should spend $100,000 and two months shooting time for an eight-minute number in which he would dance with the mouse Jerry from the popular "Tom and Jerry" cartoon series.

In 1949 Mr. Kelly made two films with Frank Sinatra, "Take Me Out to the Ball Game" and one of his all-time hits, "On the Town," which he co-directed and choreographed.

In 1951, "An American in Paris," in which he received sole star billing, won eight Academy Awards, including best picture of the year, and a special Oscar for Mr. Kelly for his contributions to screen choreography.

"Singin' in the Rain," released in 1952, was one of the last of the big MGM musicals, an affectionate spoof of the start of the talkies era in movies.

Mr. Kelly's last major musicals at MGM were "Brigadoon" (1954), a disappointment, and "It's Always Fair Weather (1955) and "Les Girls" (1957), which were both hits. In the '50s, he also appeared in "Deep in My Heart," and "Marjorie Morningstar." In 1969, he directed "Hello, Dolly!"

Mr. Kelly's first wife was the actress Betsy Blair, from whom he was divorced in 1957. They had a daughter, Kerry.

In 1960, Mr. Kelly married Jeanne Coyne, a dancer, with whom he had two children, Timothy and Bridget. Mrs. Kelly died in 1973. When he was 77 in 1990, he married the writer Patricia Ward....

STRIKE: *Walkout of Miners Hardens in Russia and Ukraine*

Continued from Page 1

again. The strike could also ignite further labor stoppages. An estimated 33,000 teachers in 21 of Russia's 89 regions have been on strike since last Wednesday, also protesting unpaid wages, Interfax reported.

On Friday, workers at the ZIL truck factory here, who have not been paid since October, announced plans to strike next week unless the debt-ridden company clears up its obligations.

The leader of Russia's striking miners, Vitali Budko, met Friday with the new Russian deputy prime minister, Vladimir Kadannikov, an auto industrialist recently named as the government's top economic policymaker, and with Yuri Malyshev, director of the state coal monopoly, Rosugol.

In addition to payment of back wages, Mr. Budko said the union was pressing for tax breaks for Rosugol, a fixed month-to-month schedule of subsidies, and extension of last year's agreement on coal prices.

Mr. Budko said that Mr. Kadannikov "didn't come to any decision."

He added that Mr. Kadannikov expressed sympathy for the miners' demands and pledged to come up with a solution next week, but that was not soon enough.

"We need the decision today," he said. "There's no such decision. I think the conflict will go on."

A long strike could lead to electric power shortages in some regions, although Russia also relies heavily on natural gas and nuclear power.

If the strike continues, it could have negative fallout for Mr. Yeltsin's plans to launch his campaign, underscoring the government's paralysis. But if Mr. Yeltsin agrees to the miners' demands for additional subsidies — coal is the second-most-subsidized industry, behind agriculture — it could unleash a new round of inflation.

Mr. Yeltsin's future is also clouded by growing demands for an end to the war in Chechnya. Earlier this week, Boris Nemtsov, governor of the Nizhny Novgorod region, presented Mr. Yeltsin with a petition signed by 1 million constituents calling for an end to the conflict. Mr. Nemtsov's gambit was significant because he was recently elected governor by an overwhelming margin. He had earlier been appointed by Mr. Yeltsin.

The speaker of the lower house of Parliament, Gennadi Seleznyov, who is a Communist, said after meeting Mr. Yeltsin on Friday that the president "will propose his plan of conflict settlement in Chechnya within the next few days."

He added, "As far as I could understand, he is not going to make the army crush Chechnya and finish it."

RUSSIAN: *Reformer Urges IMF to Hold Off on Loan to Moscow*

Continued from Page 1

cent dismissal of Anatoli B. Chubais, the reformist deputy prime minister, was an example of his move toward the conservatives. "He fired Chubais and brought to the government a very Soviet-style bureaucrat, an old manager of Lada, a state monopoly," he said.

Mr. Yavlinksy said he would tell U.S. officials that the answer was to apply pressure on Moscow by holding up the IMF loans.

"Of course Russia would suffer greatly if the IMF loans did not arrive," he said. "But if Yeltsin does not declare clearly and openly that he is committed to a series of economic reforms, then the IMF should withhold the loans until he does so."

The time for such a statement, Mr. Yavlinsky contended, would be later this month, when Mr. Yeltsin is to lay out his policy program in advance of June's presidential elections. He said the president should specifically promise to do the following:

- Protect private property rights.
- Continue breaking up state monopolies.
- Expand the commitment to free trade.
- End the war in Chechnya.

Mr. Yavlinsky accused the Yeltsin government of pandering to the Communists and their chief, Gennadi A. Zyuganov, who is now the leading candidate to succeed Mr. Yeltsin and whose party has 181 seats in the 450-member Parliament.

"Yeltsin is moving toward the Communists," Mr. Yavlinsky said, "and he is underestimating the consequences of doing that, of printing too much money, of slowing down privatization, of making more loans from the central bank to the government and so forth."

He said that one of those consequences would be a new surge in inflation. The rate is now down to 3 percent a month, but he forecast it would rise to more than 10 percent a month by midyear.

Mr. Zyuganov, in an interview on Thursday, said that the pace of economic reform in Russia was "too reckless" and that he would slow it down if elected president in June. But he stressed that he was not opposed to reforms, only to their speed.

Mr. Zyuganov also extended an olive branch to Mr. Yavlinsky, saying he could find "some common ground with him" in Parliament.

But Mr. Yavlinsky brushed it aside Friday. "Mr. Zyuganov presents a very different message to Western officials here in Davos from the one he delivers back home," he said. "Here he says he would continue some reforms. In Russia he talks about confiscation and nationalization of companies."

LOBBY: *China Timidly Tries to Fix Image*

Continued from Page 1

Late last year, according to press reports, the Chinese created an entity called the Central Leading Working Group on the U.S. Congress, which reports indirectly to Mr. Jiang and whose mandate is to study and understand Capitol Hill.

But the group is either so low profile or so new that even China specialists at the CIA and James Sasser, the newly confirmed U.S. ambassador to China, do not know anything about it.

To help burnish their image, the Chinese are pressing members of Congress to visit and are treating them like heads of state when they do.

Last month, when the Democratic senators Diane Feinstein of California, John Glenn of Ohio and Sam Nunn of Georgia visited Beijing, Mr. Jiang showed them Mao's bedroom, billard room and indoor swimming pool, telling them that they were the first foreigners to step foot in that part of the palace since Mao's death.

But when it came to the tough policy issues that divide the two countries, like Taiwan, human rights and missile sales to Pakistan, Mr. Jiang and his subordinates turned tone deaf, Mr. Glenn said.

When Deputy Foreign Minister Liu Huaqiu, China's top specialist on the United States, suggested during a meeting that Congress not bring up anything negative about the relationship between the two countries during the election year, the senator lost his patience.

"I told him 'You just don't understand our form of government if you think anybody could tell a particular congressmen or senator not to bring up something about China,' " Mr. Glenn said. To help change their image, China experts, businessmen and lawmakers like Senator Feinstein, who has emerged as a chief defender of China on Capitol Hill, have begun to urge the Chinese to look to Taiwan as an example of how to mold U.S. public opinion.

Even though the U.S. government considers Taiwan part of China (its diplomats cannot even enter the State Department), its lobbying efforts have led 24 states to pass resolutions to treat Taiwan like any other country.

Taiwan has 13 regional offices to push cultural and trade ties; it buys goodwill with donations to universities and first-class trips to Taiwan for congressional staff members, rotary clubs, state legislators and veterans groups.

As governor of Arkansas, Bill Clinton visited Taiwan four times; he has never visited China.

For now, the single best lobbyist on behalf of China is probably former Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger, who is not paid by China but who advises U.S. companies doing business there.

Mr. Kissinger's meetings with Speaker Newt Gingrich, Republican of Georgia, last year led him to back off his call for Taiwan's independence.

But Mr. Kissinger's efforts have not been enough to make Mr. Gingrich a friend of China.

Last Saturday, in a town meeting outside of Atlanta, Mr. Gingrich warned of a future nuclear threat from "China or Iran or Korea or some place like that," adding that an angry China might some day decide to launch a missile at Los Angeles.

SAUDIS: *U.S. Aid to Bosnia?*

Continued from Page 1

significant, and included hundreds of volunteers, small arms, rocket-propelled grenades and humanitarian supplies.

The Saudi official said that most of the Saudi assistance to the Bosnian Muslims was channeled through Croatia, which controls Bosnia's access to the sea and Western Europe, and took its own cut of up to 50 percent on all arms deliveries. Some emergency deliveries were made in the form of secret night flights to Tuzla and other airports under the control of the Bosnian authorities.

French Defense Ministry officials have repeatedly insisted that the United States helped facilitate a series of mysterious flights to Tuzla during the war by American C-130 cargo planes, which were witnessed by UN observers. U.S. officials have denied this and have suggested that Turkey may have been responsible.

In an interview earlier this week, the former European Union negotiator to Bosnia, David Owen, said he shared the British and French view that the Americans had been involved in a covert arms program to Bosnia and Croatia during the war, but could not prove it.

If the Saudi version of events is accurate, the Clinton administration took care to preserve the principle of plausible deniability through the use of former military and intelligence personnel and trusted middlemen. Saudi sources said that such informal American involvement was essential because Saudi Arabia lacked the "technical sophistication."

The official refused to go into detail about the American role in the operation, other than to say that the Saudis had made use of the same "network" of undercover operatives, arms salesmen, and "former this and former that" set up during the Afghan operation.

"We did not set up a formal structure, the way we did in Afghanistan," the official said. "But logic tells you that without the consent of NATO, the United States and Germany, there was no way" the operation could have happened.

In June 1992, according to the Saudi sources, King Fahd sent a handwritten letter to Mr. Bush appealing to the United States to lead efforts to "put an end to the massacres" of Muslims.

Mr. Bush's national security adviser, Brent Scowcroft, said he had "no recollection" of the Saudi message. According to the Saudi sources, the king received a polite brush-off, which they described as the only major difference with the Bush administration.

The Saudi sources said their government began looking for ways of assisting the Bosnian Muslims partly to counteract the ability of radical states such as Iran to exploit the issue. They said Riyadh could not afford to be viewed as "less Muslim" over Bosnia than the radical states.

MALAYSIA: *Too Much Growth, Too Soon?*

Continued from Page 1

can continue," said Jomo Kwame Sundaram, a Harvard-trained professor of economics at the University of Malaya. "Clearly the reasons for current growth are not going to evaporate overnight. But there are tremendous labor shortages. There is a real need to attract new kinds of investment. There are tremendous bottlenecks in education."

And, some critics add, there is the spectacle of the country's leaders spending much of their time, and the nation's treasure, building monuments to themselves.

All along the Malaysian Peninsula, earthmovers, pile drivers and cranes are remaking the face of the country. A major airport, new rail systems, a huge hydroelectric dam and a new downtown in the existing capital of Kuala Lumpur, anchored by what will be the world's two tallest buildings, are all either frantically being built or about to spill off blueprints.

"One detects a degree of hubris in government policies," said a foreign investment banker, who asked not to be identified. "Is it really necessary for Kuala Lumpur to have the tallest towers in the world?"

Such ambitions strike some as excessive. Citing the effect of such giant projects on the swelling balance-of-payments deficit, among other factors, First Boston declared recently that it was "strongly negative on Malaysian equities."

Bottlenecks in the supply of certain raw materials, particularly cement, and the labor shortage, which it described as "critical," will contribute, the institute argued, "to a loss of cost competitiveness in the short and medium term."

The cost of labor has forced some foreign investors to shift labor-intensive production out of Malaysia. Mattel, which makes dolls here, has moved one of its plants to Indonesia, according to John Hawes, executive director of the American Malaysian Chamber of Commerce. "More moves are likely," he said.

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Rights Issues Will Figure In EU Talks, Asians Say

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

PHUKET, Thailand — Asian officials said Friday it was inevitable that sensitive human rights and labor issues would be raised at an Asia-European Union summit meeting in March, but they warned that European criticism should not go too far.

The meeting March 1 and 2 in Bangkok of leaders from 10 Asian and 15 European countries will focus on economic cooperation, senior Asian officials attending a preparatory meeting here said. Political and security issues are also be taken up.

When asked his views on human rights and labor issues being raised at the meeting, Foreign Minister Ali Alatas of Indonesia said, "If these topics come up in broad terms, as sort of a general problem, we will discuss them informally."

Some European diplomats have said they expect their leaders to bring up social issues when they meet their counterparts from the seven-member Association of South East Asian Nations — Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam — and China, Japan and South Korea.

Indonesia's occupation of the former Portuguese colony of East Timor and China's nuclear weapons program are two other potentially explosive areas that could be discussed.

Asian countries in general resent Western criticism of human rights and labor standards, and Thai officials said they hoped any European criticism at the meeting would be limited.

The leaders of several Asian countries such as China, Malaysia and Singapore condemn outside criticism of social standards as well as linking the issue to other areas such as trade.

"This is one of the questions we cannot shy away from," a senior Thai Foreign Ministry official, Saroj Chavanaviraj, said when asked about the social questions.

"It will be raised for sure, but both sides should have a clear understanding that there is a certain limit that each side should observe," he said.

"We have a different approach to the problem — different attitude, different thinking, different background."

"It doesn't mean that we don't want to face controversial issues," he added. "But both sides should understand that there is a certain limit to this and if anyone goes beyond that good limit then it could backfire" on the meeting.

Among the political issues likely to be raised are reform of the United Nations and international treaties to prevent the proliferation and testing of nuclear weapons, officials said.

They added that the talks would launch a new era in relations between the two regions.

"The main thrust will be economic cooperation — trade, transfer of technology, how to enhance investment and so on — these are the main topics," Mr. Alatas said.

"Both Europe and East Asia will gain because there is tremendous opportunity for enhanced cooperation in the economic field but also in other fields. There's a tremendous potential for synergy among the two collective economies of both sides," he said.

Officials stressed that there will be no set agenda for the talks. However, an "indicative list" of topics that might be raised has been drawn up.

Asian officials say trade relations between their nations and Europe are progressing well, with two-way trade totaling $238 billion in 1992, compared with $240 billion between the EU and North America in the same year.

(Reuters, AFP)



Agence France-Presse

FRAUD SQUAD — Hindu militants in New Delhi, some wearing demonic masks and waving fake 500-rupee notes, calling Friday for the resignation of Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao in connection with a bribery scandal. Several senior politicians have resigned after investigators filed charges against them.

China Blast Kills 100

Illegal Dynamite Cache Explodes

Reuters

BEIJING — An explosion of illegally stored dynamite obliterated an apartment building in central China and devastated much of its neighborhood, killing more than 100 residents and injuring hundreds more, officials said Friday.

The blast erupted in an illegal explosives warehouse in the building's basement on Wednesday evening.

The cause was 10 tons of military dynamite, which a building resident, a furloughed worker who ran an illegal explosives company, had stored in the basement, television news said. He was believed to be among those killed in the blast.

"It was terrifying," a rescue coordinator said by telephone from City-South Town, a suburb of Shaoyang city in central Hunan Province, where the explosion hit in the early evening.

"At first we thought it was an earthquake."

Television footage showed hundreds of soldiers, policemen and volunteers clawing by hand and with hand tools and bulldozers through the rubble. "The entire street has been leveled," a local television official said by telephone.

All that remained of the five-floor block was a crater 30 meters across and 10 meters deep, the official Hunan Daily reported Friday.

The official toll stood at 77 dead but was certain to rise above 100 as soldiers pulled bodies from the rubble of several nearby collapsed five-floor buildings, the rescue official said. More than 400 people were injured and 117 were admitted to hospitals in serious condition, the Hunan Daily said.

It added that everything within 100 meters was flattened, including the homes of 40 families, and windows were shattered in a two kilometer radius.

"Our offices are a kilometer away, but it blew out all of our windows," the rescue official said.

Provincial experts had joined an inquiry into what the Hunan Daily called an "extraordinarily serious accident."

Television news said investigators were still trying to determine what sparked the explosion, which cut water and electricity.

The blast hit the town of 200,000 just before 8.00 P.M. Many survivors were crushed and unconscious and suffered broken bones, doctors said. Others were hurt in a rain of bricks, metal and glass or from the sheer force of the blast.

What were expected to be the last two survivors were extricated late on Thursday — 20 hours after the blast, said a doctor at No. 2 People's Hospital.

Doctors said they expected few hospital deaths.

"Most of our 80 patients are out of danger," said a doctor at No. 1 People's Hospital. "Most suffered blast-related injuries to the face, arms and body."

Officials said a dynamite merchant, He Geng, had received a large consignment of explosives in lieu of money from a cash-strapped debtor and stored them illegally in the basement.

BRIEFLY ASIA

Khmer Rouge Under Fire

KILOMETER 38 VILLAGE, Cambodia — Backed by tanks and helicopters, thousands of government troops launched a major attack Friday on Khmer Rouge headquarters.

Journalists saw two helicopter gunships pounding guerrillas' front-line defenses at Phnom Veng hill and heard artillery fire throughout the day in northwestern Cambodia.

A field commander, who requested anonymity, said the Khmer Rouge had 2,000 soldiers and seven tanks around Phnom Veng to block the route to the Khmer Rouge base of Pailin.

The fall of Pailin would be a major blow to the guerrillas. Besides serving as a headquarters, the town and its surroundings are rich in gems that are sold in neighboring Thailand, along with timber, to finance the continuing guerrilla war. *(AP)*

North Korea Aid Studied

WASHINGTON — President Bill Clinton's national security adviser was en route to South Korea and Japan for discussions on whether emergency food aid should be dispatched to North Korea, which is still suffering the effects of severe summer floods.

Michael McCurry, the White House spokesman, said Friday that W. Anthony Lake would review North Korea's food shortages and consider whether aid should be routed through United Nations agencies. He noted that South Korea has expressed doubts about North Korea's needs, given its continued high level of spending on its armed forces.

"We do believe there are food shortages that people have been going through," he said, adding that high-level discussions have been held on that issue. *(AP)*

Sri Lanka Acts to Rebuild

COLOMBO — Sri Lanka picked a special team Friday to rebuild the country's financial hub, pay compensation and provide temporary accommodation to businesses wrecked by the Tamil suicide bombings Wednesday.

Power and Energy Minister Anuruddha Ratwatte said the government would arrange alternative office space for banks, airlines and other commercial establishments as an immediate measure. "The government will get the basic facilities like electricity and telephones organized immediately," he said. "We want to reconstruct and rebuild the city center as soon as possible."

The authorities have recovered the bodies of 77 people killed in the blast outside the Central Bank building. More than 1,400 were wounded. *(AFP)*

Taiwan Tests New Missile

TAIPEI — Taiwan has successfully tested its own new air-to-air missile, Taiwan Television reported Friday. Sky Sword II, an improvement on a 1987 model, was tested last month at a military-run defense center in southern Taiwan, the station quoted unidentified military officials as saying. Nine of 10 missiles tested hit targets, it said.

The air force will buy 400 of the missiles from the military-run Chungshan Science & Technology Institute and install them both in its own jet fighters and in the 150 American-made F-16 fighters to be delivered later this year, the report said.

It said Israel helped develop the missile, which has a range of more than 25 miles, much longer than Taiwan's other air-to-air missiles. The military refused comment on the report. *(AP)*

Seoul Delays Chun Trial

SEOUL — A South Korean court on Friday postponed by three weeks the corruption trial of Chun Doo Hwan, the former president, and five former aides because of Mr. Chun's ill health, a court official said.

"The three-judge panel has decided to put off Mr. Chun's trial until Feb. 26, accepting his lawyer's appeal citing his poor health," the official said by telephone. The trial was originally scheduled to begin Monday.

Mr. Chun is in a police hospital recovering from a monthlong hunger strike he began on the day of his arrest Dec. 3 to protest what he described as persecution by President Kim Young Sam. On Friday, the hospital said Mr. Chun was suffering from dizziness, high blood pressure and a headache and was incapable of sitting for hours in a courtroom. *(Reuters)*

Peres Promises a Vote Over Syria

The Associated Press

JERUSALEM — Prime Minister Shimon Peres assured Israelis on Friday that he would hold a referendum on a land-for-peace deal with Syria even if an accord is reached after this year's general elections.

The remarks were seen as an attempt to separate the elections from the peace talks with Syria. There has been concern that the campaign will interfere with progress in U.S.-brokered negotiations with Syria.

Mr. Peres said Thursday that he may move up the balloting. He is leading in the polls, but apparently is afraid he will lose the votes of Israelis who back him in general but oppose returning the Golan Heights to Syria.

"If we reach an agreement with Syria that will require territorial changes, we will ask the people, even after elections," Mr. Peres said on Israel Army radio on Friday.

The deadline for holding elections is Oct. 29. Leading figures in Mr. Peres's Labor Party have been pushing for a May 15 vote. Mr. Peres has been riding a wave of sympathy following the Nov. 4 assassination of his predecessor, Yitzhak Rabin. Mr. Rabin had promised to hold a referendum on any peace agreement with Syria that involved significant territorial concessions.

Mr. Peres said he would honor the promise. "If the peace agreement is reached after the elections, then I will bring it as promised to a referendum," he said during a visit in London. His remarks were published in Israeli newspapers Friday.

Israel has never had a referendum, so the mechanisms of how it will work are unclear. A Justice Ministry spokeswoman, Etty Eshed, said the government first would have to pass legislation dealing with such issues as whether the vote would be binding.

Mr. Peres has not said what he would do if Israelis rejected the deal.

Fears Arise on Pope's Nicaragua Visit

By Julia Preston
New York Times Service

MANAGUA — Increased protests by university students are generating fears that disturbances could erupt when Pope John Paul II visits Nicaragua next week.

The student demonstrations, calling for increased spending on universities, have alarmed many Roman Catholics, who hoped to lay to rest the bitter memories of the Pope's 1983 visit, when supporters of the Sandinista government heckled him and shut off his microphone during his homily.

Nicaragua's highest-ranking Catholic, Cardinal Miguel Obando y Bravo, said Thursday there was no thought of canceling the visit, scheduled for Wednesday.

"There are people interested in hampering the visit of the Pope," the cardinal warned. "But that doesn't frighten us. We have to work to create an atmosphere of peace."

Although student leaders deny any direct links to the papal visit, the student protests bear the mark of the leftist Sandinista National Liberation Front, a political party that lost the 1990 national elections to President Violeta Chamorro and is now Nicaragua's second largest political bloc. Sandinista leaders appear to be saying they want a tranquil visit for the Pope while encouraging the protests behind the scenes.

Several student leaders are Sandinista candidates for public office in elections to be held later this year.

Students who joined the demonstrations made no secret that they were stepping up the pace deliberately as the Pope's arrival drew near.

"We want the government to resolve the university budget before the Pope gets here, so he won't take away a bad impression of education in Nicaragua," said Marvin Guevara, 20, a student at National Autonomous University here.

Mr. Guevara was one of several hundred students who joined in seizing the Foreign Ministry on Tuesday, trapping 80 persons. Before dawn Wednesday the national police broke up the occupation in less than 10 minutes and detained 107 protesters. Police said they confiscated an arsenal of hundreds of homemade bombs and grenade launchers.

Later Wednesday, a crowd of students commandeered a bus carrying 15 policemen to a security drill for the Pope's visit. Within the hour officials from a human rights organization persuaded the students to release their hostages.

In an interview, Tomas Borge, who was the interior minister in the Sandinista government, said his party had no desire to confront the Pope.

"The times are different," he said. "Besides, the Pope's views now coincide with ours in some respects."

A $1 Million Gem Heist

New York Times Service

NEW YORK — A jeweler from Hong Kong was shot and critically wounded when three men robbed him of nearly $1 million in diamonds on a bustling street in midtown Manhattan.

As the victim and another man got out of a taxi outside the New York Hilton at Sixth Avenue and 53d Street on Thursday night, the police said, three men approached and one of them shot the jeweler once in the chest.

The thieves grabbed a duffel bag containing the diamonds and ran west on 53d Street toward Seventh Avenue.

The man's companion gave chase. They fired twice at the businessman, but missed, the police said, then got into a dark sedan on Seventh Avenue and drove off.

The jeweler was in critical condition at New York Hospital. His companion told the police that the bag contained almost $1 million in diamonds.

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Chirac's Contribution

Two main elements dominate France's current international outlook. One, as President Jacques Chirac proudly said on the eve of his trip to Washington, is "endowing France with the means of her independence and security" — this by conducting the recent series of nuclear tests. The other is what he presented in his appearances in Washington on Thursday: seeking security in cooperation with France's European and Atlantic allies. Certainly Americans would prefer to see their oldest friend emphasize the second element. But that is not exactly what France's chief of state did this past week.

The nuclear tests outraged South Pacific test-site neighbors and many Americans. They lent an unhappy impetus to national bomb-making even as President Bill Clinton gave priority to a test ban to seal off the making of any new nuclear weapons anywhere. Certainly the tests do little to equip Mr. Chirac for the role he now claims as a world leader in disarmament. The best that can be said is that by establishing his Gaullist lineage in this fashion, he frees himself up for more sensible steps in other policy areas. Under Mr. Chirac, France has departed from the go-it-alone nuclear and military policy championed three decades earlier by then-President Charles de Gaulle. He favors a strong "European identity" within NATO but has begun to move closer to military cooperation within the alliance. The familiar rhetoric of nationalism has blurred. In a concrete display of common cause, French peacekeeping troops — veterans of the Balkan struggle — now serve under NATO command in Bosnia.

President Chirac's purpose is to unify Europe, east and west, and to make the new entity an increasingly more equal partner of the United States, whose role in a continental balance of power he hopes to see sustained. He presents this idea not as an implicit confession of Europe's inability on its own to prevent the horrors of Yugoslavia, but as a sensible post-Cold War design. It is sensible, and overdue, especially the part about Europe's taking a larger share. For both presidents, an afternoon spent on what the diplomats call the security architecture of Europe and on the possibilities of cooperation elsewhere is bound to be welcome. It comes as a kind of holiday from the daily heavy lifting of the industrialized democracies — figuring out ways to trim and pay for the welfare state. But it is important, and Mr. Chirac made a contribution to the task.

— THE WASHINGTON POST.

Bloodletting in Sri Lanka

Even by the coarsened standards of our age, last Wednesday's terror bombing in Sri Lanka evokes a peculiar horror.

At least 73 people were killed and 1,400 wounded after a truck crammed with explosives plowed into the Central Bank in downtown Colombo, the capital.

It is hard for any civilized society to defend itself against such an assault carried out by a suicide bomber. But it is harder still to understand how a political movement claiming to speak for lofty ideals could sanction such a bloodletting.

The credible assumption is that the attack was the work of suicide commandos known as Black Tigers, the most fanatical sect of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam.

The same sect is already accused of blowing up a Sri Lankan president, a past prime minister of India, an opposition political leader in Colombo, a minister of defense, various generals and airliners, buses, oil depots and army camps. Using teenagers as human bombs is the trademark tactic of Velupillai Prabhakaran, the Tiger chieftain.

Determined to found Eelam, an independent Tamil state, the Tigers last April broke a six-month ceasefire by sending suicide frogmen to sink two navy gunboats. That undermined peace talks with President Chandrika Kumaratunga, who later ordered an army assault on the rebel ministate of Jaffna.

After Jaffna fell in December, Mrs. Kumaratunga tried to breathe life into her peace initiative with an offer of federalist autonomy to Tamil areas. The Tigers rejected her proposals, and the blast in Colombo seems certain to further harden all sides in the 13-year civil war.

This conflict between the mostly Buddhist Sinhalese majority and the mainly Hindu Tamil minority cannot be attributed to ancient hatreds. The two peoples shared the island peacefully for centuries; political violence dates to the 1960s, when Sinhalese became the official language, putting Tamils at a disadvantage. They also had grievances about job and school discrimination and government spending priorities.

Rival politicians playing on ethnic resentments bear the heaviest burden for a spiraling conflict that has taken 40,000 lives and has now displaced 400,000 Tamils in Jaffna. This is not a dispute that outsiders can hope to resolve, but its moral contours seem plain enough.

Mrs. Kumaratunga, whose father and husband were both slain by assassins, was elected to end the war and has put forward serious peace proposals. For his part, Mr. Prabhakaran has staked everything on gaining a Tamil state, whatever the cost in blood and honor.

— THE NEW YORK TIMES.

The Fed's Lonely Job

To avert a recession, the Federal Reserve has given the aging economic recovery another shot of Geritol in the form of slightly reduced interest rates. The buzz afterward was all about the details of the announcement — whether the modest cuts were adequate to the task, whether they should have come earlier, whether more will come later, how the markets responded, etc. But the most important thing about the Fed's intervention is a fact of a different kind, to which just about everyone has become so accustomed that it scarcely occasions comment.

The Fed is now the only arm of the U.S. government engaged in the broader management of the economy. Congress and the president, who used to have a role in that, no longer do. The budget deficit, which in its way is a measure of their continuing ineffectuality, has taken them out of play.

Not all that many years ago, the elected branches for better or worse would have intervened had the economy displayed the signs of weakness it is showing today, and particularly had it done so in an election year. There would have been a tax cut or an extra lollop of spending or some combination of the two. Often the fiscal stimulus would turn out to be too much too late, a clumsy effort, but that's a different issue. They would do it, and more important, they would have the fiscal room to do it.

They don't any more. The deficit is already too large. A further increase large enough to stimulate the economy is as likely to have the opposite effect of holding interest rates higher than they would otherwise be and thereby discouraging much of the growth that it is meant to prompt.

In this as in other respects, the deficit has cost the politicians maneuvering room and reduced the ability to govern. Both parties, of course, profess to be concerned with broader economic policy. Each claims piously to want the deficit down — but surely not at the expense of a tax increase or cut in aid to the elderly or farm supports or transportation grants. You name it.

Balancing the budget is just the vocabulary within which they have the usual fights about who gets what. In the end, the deficit stays high and the elected officials whose shortsightedness keeps it there find they lack the power to do much of anything but stand on the sidelines, complain and pretend. And they wonder why good people are leaving Congress.

The Fed itself has less leverage over interest rates and the economy than it used to. And there is always an argument about how it carries out its semicontradictory task of keeping the economy growing yet suppressing inflation. You will always have people arguing that the Fed erred on one side or the other of the equation.

No doubt sometimes it does err, but because the elected branches have by their weakness pretty well taken themselves out of the game, it's all America has.

— THE WASHINGTON POST.

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International Herald Tribune, 181 Avenue Charles-de-Gaulle, 92521 Neuilly-sur-Seine, France.
Tel.: (1) 41.43.93.00. Fax: Circ. (1) 41.43.92.10; Adv. (1) 41.43.92.12. Internet: IHT@eurokom.ie
Editor for Asia: Michael Richardson, 3 Canterbury Rd., Singapore 0511. Tel. (65) 472-7766. Fax: (65) 274-2334
Dep. Dir. Asia: Rolf D. Kramenhl, 50 Gloucester Rd., Hong Kong. Tel. 852-2922-1188. Fax: 852-2922-1190.
Mgr. Germany: T. Schlüter, Friedrichstr. 15, 60323 Frankfurt/M. Tel. (069) 72 67 55. Fax: (069) 72 73 10
U.S.: Michael Conroy, 850 Third Ave., New York, N.Y. 10022. Tel. (212) 752-3890. Fax: (212) 755-8785
Advertising Office: 63 Long Acre, London WC2. Tel. (171) 836-4802. Fax: (171) 240-2254.
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Seeking a Broader Vision of Economic Society

By William Pfaff

DAVOS, Switzerland — The question of what capitalism is all about is subject for debate at the 1996 World Economic Forum that opened last Thursday in this Swiss resort. Sessions discuss the morality of capitalism, the moral contract between corporations and employers, the environmental costs of the quest for competitiveness and the effects of growth on social cohesion.

The title given this year's conference, "sustaining globalization," would seem to preempt the debate, since there is in fact an alternative to "sustaining" globalization. Globalization could be braked, or shaped, rather than merely sustained, and there are many critics of the economic evolution of the last few years who would like to see that happen. They will have their influence on this annual meeting of international businesspeople with academic figures and political leaders.

The conventional wisdom says capitalism is about the creation of wealth. Narrowly defined — as it currently is, in the business schools and economics faculties — this means return on invested capital for the corporation, underwriting technological growth and innovation.

Other concerns, which might be grouped as "social return," have tended to be ruled out, or at least disregarded. These would include growth of wealth and well-being for employees, and community development and enrichment, as well as the currently more fashionable environmental concerns.

The conventional wisdom claims that this social return will automatically be provided by today's capitalism's current emphasis on fiscal return to corporations, since in the long term the wealth created by globalization, downsizing and corporate rationalization will do good for all men.

This is a nice theory that defies the common sense of any realist's observation of how the system actually is working today, and how it has worked in the past. It is a theory — or, more properly, an ideology — that rationalizes much evil and suffering in contemporary society.

A major theoretical debate is gathering today that will greatly influence capitalism's future. Ostensibly scientific discussion within the economic community takes place in the context of a vision of society — implicitly a vision of society as a whole, as well as of economic society. That vision now is shifting.

The dominant Keynesian economic assumptions and expectations of the postwar West represented one such vision and produced conclusions about the obligations of economic actors. Business schools in those years taught the doctrine of "corporate citizenship" or "stakeholder capitalism." The corporation was held to be responsible to all of its "stakeholders," who included the employees whose working lives were devoted to it and the community in which it functioned, which gave the corporation its support, and which enacted the laws that gave the modern business corporation its peculiar privileges and protections.

In this conception, corporate profit was an index of corporate efficiency, but profit to the stockholder (or executive) was assigned no absolute priority over the interests of other stakeholders, as usually is the case today. But as Robert Reich, the U.S. labor secretary, has recently noted, the modern business corporation is a creation of law, and if its present structure, immunities and method of taxation tend to reward socially regressive behavior, the law can be changed.

A new book by Robert Heilbroner and William Milberg, "The Crisis of Vision in Modern Economic Thought" (published by the Cambridge University Press in the United States), examines the theoretical challenges that unseated Keynesianism, first that of monetarism and then those of the currently dominant "rational expectations" school of economists.

No one can predict globalization's outcome.

Perhaps the most important of the authors' observations, however, is one most preachers of the conventional wisdom today ignore. It is that economics is not an exact science (despite the strenuous efforts of mathematically oriented economists to establish it as such).

Economic behavior is embedded in a social and political context whose complexity, and potentialities, are certainly subject to scientific analysis but not to comprehensive and scientifically objective conclusions. There indeed are truths to be ascertained about the economic behavior of men, as there are about their political behavior, but there is no final Truth. There are no universal laws in this, as there are universal scientific laws to discover in physics and the other "hard" sciences.

Defenders of the conventional economic wisdom usually claim otherwise. They purport to "know" that globalization will have benign consequences, that a universal marketplace is not only inevitable but in society's best interests, and that the present workings of corporate capitalism are generally constructive and contribute to the wealth of nations and the eventual enrichment of the individual members of society. To question the truth of any of this is, for them, generally to rule oneself out of the discussion.

They know these things just as their predecessors of the Gilded Age "knew" the truth and inevitability of their version of laissez-faire economics, and as the leading economists and economic ministers of Europe after World War I "knew" the correctness of what they were doing when they adopted policies that a few years later ruined Europe.

They did not "know," and we today do not know. We know a lot, but only that. The current wisdom about capitalism, the globalized marketplace and appropriate corporate behavior is today under increasingly severe criticism. As a "vision" of society it seems too narrow, defective in its social and political assumptions, lacking a sense of history. What can take its place is unclear and will come both from theoretical economics and the practical and political demands of society. But a change unmistakably is on the way.

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European Monetary Union Is Compatible With Tough Reality

By Valéry Giscard d'Estaing

The writer is the former president of France.

PARIS — In the meeting of Dec. 15, 1995, in Madrid, the European Council solemnly confirmed that the single European currency would go into effect on Jan. 1, 1999. Everything seemed in order. However, in recent weeks the debate has flared up again, calling into question the goal of monetary union. There are those who doubt its credibility.

The debate is justified considering that this is the largest monetary reform ever undertaken, involving at least six or seven countries and more than 170 million people who will be trading their national currencies for a single currency.

Justified as this debate may be, it is confused. It mixes up the political, monetary and psychological aspects of the issue. In order to clarify the problem, we should bear in mind that the discussion centers around two questions: the date the single currency will go into effect and the conditions that must be fulfilled by the participating countries.

The date issue is settled by the Maastricht treaty. It sets two dates for monetary union. Jan. 1, 1997, is the date it becomes *possible*. Jan. 1, 1999, is the *compulsory* date.

On Jan. 1, 1997, only one state, Luxembourg, will meet the conditions to join the monetary union. That will be the case for neither Germany nor France. Hence, monetary union will not be possible at that time.

However, according to the terms of the Maastricht treaty, monetary union must go into effect on Jan. 1, 1999, "for all members of the European Union that have met the necessary conditions for the adoption of a single currency." This date cannot be postponed, as some might think, without revising the Maastricht treaty, which has been approved by parliament or ratified by referendum in the 15 member states.

Recalling the difficulties of ratification, one can imagine the virtually insurmountable obstacles that would be involved in renegotiation and another ratification. Only Denmark and Britain obtained an exception clause.

The political disadvantages of postponing the date would be considerable. The large states of the European Union will experience a period of political uncertainty starting in 1998. General elections will be held in both France and Germany. If the date is postponed, there is no guarantee that the new leaders will undertake the commitment of implementing monetary union. At present, Chancellor Helmut Kohl, whose presence is vital to the success of the project, is alone in his convictions about monetary union.

More importantly, a deadly blow would be dealt to the process of European integration. With the European Union facing the challenge of enlarging to include 10 or 15 more countries, delaying monetary union would mean opting for a loose organization of the European continent. It would mean renouncing the political determination for a close-knit union with a federal bent, as proposed by Jean Monnet and Konrad Adenauer.

The second issue concerns the conditions to be satisfied by states wishing to adopt a single currency. Since the project's inception, these conditions stem from the following necessity: the idea of convergence. To use the same currency, states must be in similar economic situations, moving toward alignment with each other. This is plain common sense.

The conditions for convergence, which have been baptized the "Maastricht criteria" by the press, are outlined in the Maastricht treaty. There are four: the rate of inflation, long-term interest rates, the respect of limits on exchange rate fluctuations and no excessive public deficit. The first three conditions present no major hurdles for countries resolved to join the monetary union, particularly Germany, France and the three Benelux countries. Only the last condition, that of excessive public deficit, is an issue.

The Maastricht treaty refers to a limit on the total public deficit of 3 percent of GDP of each state. Yet, neither France nor Germany will respect this limit in 1996. Germany predicts a public deficit of 3.6 percent of GDP and France's will be slightly under 4 percent — hence the skepticism in financial circles about the countries' ability to meet the Maastricht criteria.

French and German political leaders assert their determination to take all the necessary budgetary and fiscal measures to meet the Maastricht criteria. However, a new difficulty has emerged: Economic growth has slowed in both countries. Growth in 1996 will be less than 1 percent, decreasing revenues and increasing deficits.

Opponents of a single currency argue that it will be impossible to meet the deadline. Governments will not be able to continue their efforts at reducing the deficit for fear it will exacerbate the tendency toward recession. This judgment is premature. Fulfillment of the Maastricht criteria will not be verified for another two years. Between now and then, a recovery is possible.

It's possible to respect Maastricht while allowing for the negative effects of slow growth.

However, we should not allow ourselves to be boxed in by unduly strict adherence to doctrine, as opponents of a single currency would like, in the hope of dashing all prospects for the project's success. Convergence does not mean that we must all experience the same decrease in revenues, or must all take the same measures to grapple with an economic slowdown.

In the first quarter of 1998, when the European Council must decide which member states meet the necessary conditions for adopting a single currency, it will use Article 104 of the treaty. This article leaves room for interpretation, specifying that the public deficit should be below a given reference value "unless the ratio has decreased substantially and constantly, or exceeds the reference value temporarily and exceptionally."

I recommend that we bear in mind these provisions of the treaty. This will prevent the formal application of the Maastricht criteria from running counter to economic circumstances. It will especially prevent public opinion from believing that, in the name of the sacrosanct principles of monetary union, we want to get locked into a downward spiral of deflation.

It is legitimate to reason that when the basic public finance data meet the Maastricht criteria, the impact of the economic situation experienced by all will not be incompatible with convergence and can be considered separately from the criteria. In short, it is possible to respect the Maastricht criteria while allowing for the negative effects of slow growth.

I hope the Commission and the Council are preparing a careful and judicious reading of the Maastricht treaty for the beginning of 1998. Given the courageous efforts to reduce public deficits, this assurance will suffice to guarantee to the public and the markets that there can be a single currency on Jan. 1, 1999.

Thus, in the eyes of all, it is of our money that Europe will be made.

New Perspectives Quarterly.

America Must Draw the Line With China on Taiwan — Now

By A. M. Rosenthal

NEW YORK — The secretary of state worked hard polishing the speech. He wanted it to be his best, to sum up his vision of America's place in the world, particularly Asia.

And it did turn out to be the one speech that will always be associated with his career. It is remembered because of two words he did not speak.

On Jan. 12, 1950, Secretary Dean Acheson said that the U.S. defensive perimeter — plainly the areas where America would draw the line — "runs along the Aleutians to Japan and then goes to the Ryukyus."

The two words he left out were "South Korea" — an ally constantly threatened by North Korea, a dependency of Communist China.

Six months later, the North Koreans attacked the South — and might have anyway. But U.S. and Asian historians have generally believed that the omission of those two words helped convince the North Koreans that the United States would not do much about an attack on the South.

The speech has served for decades as a textbook case of how war can start by sliding over the threat and not stating what the price might be to the aggressor.

Once again, it seems to me, the United States is in danger of doing that — this time about Communist China's maniacal threats of a war against Taiwan, 80 miles across the Taiwan Strait.

Daily for months now, Beijing has threatened military attack against Taiwan. It says the leaders of Taiwan are plotting to make it independent of China. Beijing knows that top leaders of Taiwan plan no such thing.

But Taiwan did recently carry out the first free national election in the history of the Chinese people and plans another in March. While not demanding independence, the Taiwan leadership does ask the world to acknowledge it as the separate, thriving reality it has become.

For its freedoms and modest international ambitions, Beijing cannot forgive Taiwan, not until it surrenders its mind and future.

Beijing threatens naval blockade and says missiles will fall every day in Taiwan. Already action has been added to threat — missile "tests" near Taiwan and menacing amphibious landings opposite Taiwan.

To the United States, which would inevitably become involved in a Chinese-started war that neither America nor Taiwan wants or incites, China offers the usual contempt. Beijing passes word that the United States is more interested in Los Angeles than Taiwan — nasty nuclear blackmail. No country planning war ever delivered clearer threats than China against Taiwan.

The United States does caution Beijing. It says an attack on Taiwan would violate U.S. understandings with China and America's treaty with Taiwan. But it is done privately, without specifics about what the United States might do.

Washington believes the Chinese may be bluffing and in any case will not make a direct land assault. But Beijing can easily carry out other attacks.

Beijing and the American people should know what the United States might do if Beijing blockaded Taiwan or sank its ships or carried out daily missile raids. Would the United States reply in military proportion? Would it cut off the trade with China that finances the Chinese Army?

And can Beijing take America's whispered, unspecific cautions seriously if at the same time the United States helps strengthen the vast industrial empire of the Chinese Army — not only through trade but through something called "defense conversion"?

The Far Eastern Economic Review reports that Defense Secretary William Perry's plans for the Chinese to convert their arms and nuclear industries to civilian use have had only one tangible result — "a lucrative business deal for Perry's friends and a springboard for China's efforts to develop a modern military communications system."

Representative Floyd Spence, chairman of the House Committee on National Security, has asked Mr. Perry for a reply.

Like other countries looking for trouble, China puts less credibility in another country's whispered cautions than it does in open statements about the cost to be paid.

So, as long as the United States gives neither China nor the American people an idea of what Washington might do to meet military action against Taiwan, it increases the possibility of war.

Giving advance warnings of consequences is not warmongering. As the secretary of state and America found out 46 years ago, it is wiser and safer to say the words than to pencil them out.

The New York Times.

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IN OUR PAGES: 100, 75 AND 50 YEARS AGO

1896: French Mint

PARIS — The French Mint has issued its report for the year 1895. During the last year a total number of 21,107,346 gold, silver and bronze pieces of French money were struck, with a total value of 116,116,930fr. In addition, a large quantity of money has been made for foreign countries. For Indo-China, 31,594,211fr. worth of money was coined; for Bolivia 1,000,000fr. worth; for Greece, 1,500,000fr. worth; for Haiti, 4,055,106fr. worth; for Morocco, 1,837,463fr. worth. The French Mint made a considerable increase on the manufacture of preceding years.

1921: Baby Talk

CHICAGO — By cradleside or by moonlight, Mrs. Evelyn F. Houghton, an instructor to children of defective speech in grammar schools, is crusading for the abolishment of "baby talk." Indulgence by fond parents in the language she outlaws seriously hinders development in their children of good speech, Mrs. Houghton explained. Babies often learn to stutter, stammer and lisp later in life because of "baby talk," she warned.

1946: Editorial Return

PARIS — [The Herald says in an Editorial:] Not long ago, there was a feeling that the editorial page had served its usefulness. It had become stodgy and could not compete with the more exciting departments of a newspaper in reader interest. Then a change occurred. Recent studies show editorial page readers increasing. The main factor is an increasingly comment-conscious public. Also, more newspapers than before are standing firm in their convictions. The average American likes a fighter who will stand up for his rights.

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The Apparatchik Who Lives On

By Alessandra Stanley
New York Times Service

MOSCOW — Stalin's last surviving apparatchik has made a triumphant return to the Kremlin.

Tikhon Khrennikov, 82, a composer who in his 40 years at the head of the Soviet Composers Union was best known for stifling the great Russian composers Shostakovich and Prokofiev, did not fade away after Communism collapsed.

Instead, the grandiose music he created for a new ballet, "Napoléon Bonaparte," is being performed to sellout crowds at the 6,000-seat Kremlin Palace of Congresses, under the sponsorship of York International Corporation, an American manufacturer of air-conditioning and heating equipment.

In one of the stranger twists of Russian life, some of the greatest dissident artists and writers to have survived the Soviet period, including Alexander Solzhenitsyn, are ignored and even mocked in their newly democratic homeland, while some of the party faithful they struggled against are serenely reaping the rewards of expediency.

And few defy the odds of history more than Khrennikov, who faithfully carried out the policy of artistic repression established in Stalin's time, and is now seeing his works performed thanks to the very capitalism he spent his career denouncing.

He is unrepentant about his past and buoyant about his future.

"I was buried in paperwork, speeches," he said of the job Stalin handpicked him for and which he held onto until the Soviet Union, and the Composers Union, collapsed in 1991.



James Hill/The New York Times

For decades, Khrennikov helped make Soviet composers toe the line.

"Now I am responsible only for myself — at last I am absolutely free."

His latest work, a lavish, studiously classical ballet that chronicles the rise and fall of Russia's greatest enemy, Napoléon, is being performed by the Kremlin Ballet in a vast concert hall built under Khrushchev, and whose walls are still encrusted with the Soviet hammer and sickle.

Khrennikov devoted much of his life to keeping Soviet music free of the taint of jazz, "formalism" and avant-garde atonality, and the music he composed — sweepingly orchestral and derivative of Tchaikovsky — reflects it.

Although he composed hundreds of works, ranging from folk music to movie scores, symphonies and operas, Khrennikov is more likely to go down in history for his 1948 speech attacking "formalism" and the works of Shostakovich, Prokofiev and other major Russian composers.

That chilling denunciation set the tone for Soviet censure and oppression for decades to come. Now, Khrennikov says he did not write that speech, and that it was thrust into his hands a few hours before he was due to speak. "I'd like to see someone get an order from the Central Committee to do something and refuse," he said. "You had to live in that atmosphere to understand what was going on."

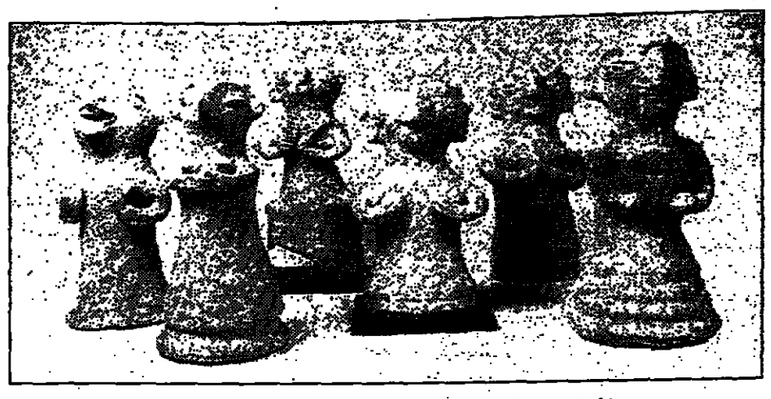
Khrennikov, who says he still despises jazz, evinces no regret over his past, saying he did what he could behind the scenes to help his fellow composers.

"Nobody could say no to Stalin," he explained, pulling a finger across his neck to mimic the slitting of a throat. "I did what I could to help my colleagues," he said. "My conscience is clear."

This is not a view universally shared by musicians and music critics.

The cellist Mstislav Rostropovich, who fled the Soviet Union in 1974, now returns fairly frequently to Russia to perform — and extend his blessings on the victory over Communism. Khrennikov does not attend his concerts. "We were friends once," Khrennikov said gingerly. "Some people even say I helped him make his career. I have nothing against him, but we don't speak now." But Rostropovich's outspoken wife, the opera diva Galina Vishnevskaya, paints a starkly different picture of Khrennikov in her autobiography. She describes the head of the Composers Union as a "clever, scheming courtier," who campaigned against former mentors, including Shostakovich.

There are Russians who defend Khrennikov. "He helped a lot of people at a difficult time," said Eduard Alekseyev, a music scholar and a former member of the Composers Union. But history is unlikely to disregard his politics in favor of his music. "As a composer, he was a nonentity," said Richard Taruskin, a music professor at the University of California at Berkeley. "Politically, he is an ambiguous figure — he did some good and some bad. The question is whether he was forced to."



Primitive red earthenware figures from the Bajaur Valley in Pakistan.

The Great Auction War

Have the French Lost Out for Good?

International Herald Tribune

PARIS — Is France losing the great international auction battle for good? It looks increasingly that way. If this should turn out to be the case, it will be a matter of deep regret, not just for the French, but for the collecting world at large. That would result in a de facto world-auction dominion run from London and New York, and monopolies, even in tandem, are unhealthy.

Joël Marie Millon, president of the Paris Chamber of Auctioneers, held a press conference on Thursday evening to comment on

SOUREN MELIKIAN

last year's performance and announce planned reforms. Paris art sales added up to 2.3 billion francs ($450 million), down 7 percent from 1994. The poor showing, blamed by Millon on the Paris strikes (which indeed kept many foreigners away) and two elections in the year, spells trouble for the precariously balanced finances of Drouot, which is becoming too expensive to run for its turnover.

But that is nothing compared with what is looming on the horizon. Millon announced that France will be opening up to allow European Union nationals to hold auctions as of January 1998, subject to unspecified conditions (this is France, you see). It will no longer be necessary to be a *commissaire priseur*.

In a face-saving proviso, the sacrosanct monopoly of French auctioneers who are judiciary officers, appointed by the Ministry of Justice, will be upheld concerning sales that take place following a court order. A committee appointed by the government is to work out a project, and a bill should be submitted to the National Assembly in the fall. Do such technicalities matter? Not a lot, even for the French. The die is already cast.

Even if it gets rid of the straitjacket of long-outdated regulations that go back to a 1556 royal edict updated by Napoléon when he was still a consul, France will keep paying the price of a structure that eliminated real competition and has left it ill-prepared to confront its highly efficient Anglo-Saxon rivals. Right now there are 107 auctioneers, organized — if that is the word — within no fewer than 70 auctioneering offices. Their real training is in law, not in business or the art market. To this day, they are bound by regulations banning them from seeking out clients and gagged by other regulations banning personalized advertising.

Indeed, most could barely afford advertising other than in the weekly Gazette de l'Hôtel Drouot, which makes it mandatory reading for anyone remotely interested in buying at auction. Many have never set foot in a London or a New York auction house. They will be at a severe disadvantage in the forthcoming showdown.

THE problem of art expertise is another tough nut to crack. In London and New York, in-house specialists do the job and turn to recognized experts in museums or academe when special problems arise. The French auctioneers, so prone to boast the independence from sordid commercialism that their legal status supposedly ensures, turn to advisers dubbed "experts" who, nine times out of ten are, lo and behold, dealers in the field.

This is not altogether without foundation. Experienced dealers, like collectors of long standing, often are the best connoisseurs when it comes to authenticating or even assessing quality and artistic merit — if they get it wrong, they stand to lose their stake, unlike curators who simply waste the taxpayer's money.

Unfortunately, there is a big problem with dealers, as seen by the Anglo-Saxon world, even though it does not look down upon commerce in contrast to the French. This is called a "conflict of interest."

To anyone but, apparently, the French judiciary, the mere thought of an expert assessing one day the merits and financial value of an item, and sitting another day at the sale to buy it with a view to reselling it, seems very bizarre. On the other hand, the French do not have the resource of turning to their own museum people. These are banned by statutory law from giving opinions that could have a commercial incidence, even to private art owners. Add that auction professionals rarely manage fluency in English, now the language of international academic intercourse and publishing, and they are in for a rough time.

On the other hand, if the French auction system should ultimately flounder, something very precious would be lost: With all its faults and disorganized character — some would say thanks precisely to that — French auctions often retain a certain flavor of spontaneity sadly missing in London or New York.

On Wednesday, Millon was conducting an unassuming sale of Far Eastern art, with a slim catalogue, "in the presence of Bertrand Henry, expert." Henry deals in Japanese art from a booth in the Village Suisse. This was the first auction sale in which he appeared as an expert, and he had entirely built it up. Of the 187 lots, only 59 sold, adding up to 263,810 francs plus the sale charge, 10.84 percent. The main reasons seem obvious. Many pieces were overestimated and quite a few were of no interest whatsoever.

YET, to a collector, that sale held an irresistible appeal, not least because it included at the beginning 10 objects of a kind never seen in Western auctions — gray earthenware vessels described as Indus Valley pottery dating from the second half of the third millennium B.C. Produced by an otherwise elusive culture, they can be admirable. But early undecorated pottery is rarely expensive and if unfamiliar it can sell for a song.

A tall beaker, tapering slightly before breaking into a sudden flare, with an overhang at the top, was knocked down at 700 francs to a collector. Another collector bought a sophisticated chalice on a tall stem knocked down at 1,000 francs.

Then came a group of primitive red earthenware figures from the Bajaur Valley in Pakistan with expressionistic cartoonlike faces. Never seen at auction either, these went for prices ranging from 2,500 to 2,800 francs. Most of the bigger lots of Buddhist sculpture from Pakistan, damaged and very highly estimated, failed, and later, Chinese sculpture crashed with a thud.

One or two inexpensive and delightful pieces could be seen. A tiny bowl, subtly decorated with two prunus twigs under the motley brownish-black glaze favored under the Song dynasty, is of a type dear to the heart of the Japanese who call it "temmoku."

They would not have touched this one — a small repair to the glaze is visible on the underside. It went to a private buyer who could not repress a grin as the hammer came down on a 3,100-franc bid.

Minuscule events such as this invariably attract a host of small collectors who buy for pleasure, to live with the objects, not to invest or parade. This is the last flicker in Europe of an age-old relationship to art, enjoyed by people with modest means, that was inseparable from its living culture, now virtually lost in Britain and the United States. It would be well worth preserving where it survives, if there is the slightest chance.

The Ancient Mystery of a Young Girl

By Roderick Conway Morris
International Herald Tribune

ROME — In 1993 a sarcophagus was unearthed at Vallerano on Via Laurentina in south of Rome. It con-ed the remains of a girl of to 18. Despite her young , she had been buried — in second half of the second ntury — with an extraordin-array of exquisitely fash-ed gold necklaces, amu-, rings and cameo oches, set with emeralds, phires, diamonds, ethysts, sardonyx, garnets l other gemstones, amber rpins, a large silver hand ror, its back decorated with elaborate high-relief myth-gical scene, and a silver llop shell that was prob-y a scented-oil container.

These sensational discover-have gone on display for first time in "The Mystery a Young Girl," an exhib-n at the Accademia Valen-on Piazza Mignanelli (just Piazza di Spagna). They accompanied by a fascin-g gathering together of vious finds from girls' ves of the same epoch, un-alleled in their sumptuous-s by any others from the ire Roman period. (The show runs till Feb. 18, and will then go to the Palazzo Reale in Milan and to Verona in the summer.)

Edward Gibbon in "The Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire" proclaimed the second century "the period in the history of the world during which the human race was most happy and prosperous." And the pinnacle of this golden age he placed firmly during the rules of Antoninus Pius and his adopted son, Marcus Aurelius, author of the famous "Meditations," whose consecutive reigns were "possibly the only period in history in which the happiness of a great people was the sole object of government." These years, 138 to 180 or soon after, are those from which these unusual graves date.

During this time wars were few and conducted on the remote frontiers of the empire, the benefits of Roman civilization most visible, and the material well-being of people throughout Rome's vast domains exceptionally high. Luxury goods — silks from China, rare dyes, spices and perfumes from the East Indies, India and Egypt — poured into Rome. The origins of the Young Girl of Vallerano's precious stones alone offer a revealing glimpse of how, a thousand years before Marco Polo, precious commodities were reaching the West even from distant lands on the edges of the known world. The diamonds in her rings, for example, can now be traced back to India, the sapphires to Sri Lanka and the emeralds to Egypt.

A key point of exchange in this East-West trade was the Syrian oasis city of Palmyra, which controlled caravan routes to Central Asia and the ports of the Gulf. Palmyran merchants traveled widely, being recorded as far away from home as along the banks of the Danube, in France and in Spain. Some settled in Rome where, though they lived as naturalized Roman citizens, they clearly retained some of their Oriental manners and practices. It was, according to the archaeologist Alessandro Bedini, who discovered the Vallerano tomb, almost certainly families like these that buried these prematurely dead girls in such lavish style.



Doll with Empress Faustina hairstyle.

THE first of these distinctive girls' graves came to light in the late 15th century, but all trace of its contents has been lost. In 1889, the sarcophagus of a girl named Crepereia Tryphaena was found with her jewels at Prati di Castello, and another similar burial at Mentana in 1954. Eerily, in this latter case, when her tomb was opened the girl's body, in a white tunic, seemed perfectly preserved under the clear water that filled the sarcophagus. But as soon as the water was removed, her remains disintegrated, leaving not even her bones behind.

In 1964, another rich collection of jewels turned up in the grave of a girl at the 11th kilometer on Via Cassia. This burial also contained a remarkable ivory doll, of a kind that had already been found in the tomb of Crepereia Tryphaena and in a grave on Via Valeria in Tivoli (the other contents of which, save for an amber box, have since disappeared).

These dolls, which appear to have originated in Syria, although the ones found in Rome may well have been made locally by emigrant artisans, provide, according to Bedini, compelling evidence both for the dating of the graves and the Palmyran connection. These sophisticated proto-Barbies are anatomically female, with developed hips and busts, artfully provided with articulated joints at the shoulders, elbows, thighs and knees, and were obviously designed to be dressed.

Crepereia Tryphaena's doll is especially interesting not only because of the sensitive carving of the facial features, but also because her hairstyle, the image of that of Marcus Aurelius's wife, Faustina, is shown in a number of representations of the empress.

Along with these dolls have been found minute makeup boxes, combs and tiny mirrors, and in the case of the Via Cassia doll, minuscule gold earrings and a wonderful miniature measuring spoon, pitcher and scallop shell in amber. The Tivoli doll was recovered still wearing her gold necklace, bracelets and anklets — the last an exotic Oriental touch by Roman standards.

The evidence so far suggests that the opulent jewels some girls were buried wearing did not have any particular religious significance, but were treasured individual possessions. Valuable jewelry, as far as we know, was regarded by the average Roman as an asset and hedge against misfortune, to be passed on from generation to generation, suggesting that the placing of so much wealth in a child's grave would have been generally regarded as a recklessly flamboyant, even ostentatious, Eastern practice.

Equally mysterious is the presence of the dolls, which were in themselves costly products. It is easy to understand that bereft parents, in any age, might wish to bury a child with its favorite plaything and that adolescent girls could have retained an affection for such beautiful toys, even after they had reached an age when they were expected, in Saint Paul's phrase, to "put away childish things." But as Bedini has imaginatively speculated, the regularity with which the dolls turn up in these burials suggests that they may well also have consciously symbolized the children these girls did not live long enough to bear.

BOOKS

THE DROWNING ROOM

By Michael Pye. 252 pages. $22.95. Viking.

Reviewed by
Jonathan Yardley

THIS strange but unusually interesting book is a mélange of history and fiction, albeit with the emphasis most heavily on the latter.

It is historical fact that a woman named Gretje Reyniers moved from Amsterdam to the Dutch colony at New Amsterdam in the first half of the 17th century, and that during her life there she was known as a whore, made irreverent utterances in public and was banished from Manhattan, to which she eventually returned. But almost everything else in "The Drowning Room" is the product of Michael Pye's invention; it is entirely as persuasive as the slender thread of historical truth from which he weaves his story.

The title of the novel comes from a question posed by Gretje to Anthony the Turk, whom in time she will marry, while they are both young and still living in Holland. "What's the most terrible thing you know?" she asks, to which he replies: "There's a room in the prison. . . . They take murderers there. It's down in the cellars, under the level of the water. They open a sluice, and the water comes in. They leave you there. . . . There's a pump, and either you work it or you drown. You get tired, your muscles won't work, and the water comes up over the pump, and you have to dive down to save your life and you drown pumping."

Gretje finds this image horrifying: "She could taste his terror and in it she saw at last what kept the streets straight and the city ordered, what guaranteed civility among the ruffed and starched gentry. She always knew there must be some such secret thing."

Her own life, as it turns out, is a constant passage back and forth between these two worlds: the civilized one and the rough underworld of crime, violence and fear.

She marries twice, walking away from her first husband; the second, Anthony, has just died as this story opens and the reverberations of his death echo down to the last page. She is a bawdy woman, yet she is also a haunted one, torn between memory and madness, recalling her transgressions and failures with a mixture of grief and defiance. "Gretje doesn't know the answers to her life," Pye writes; "she just lives it."

"The Drowning Room" is one woman's story, a study in psychology and a historical novel. It is successful on all three counts.

Gretje is a convincing woman whose emotional life is far more complex than her rough exterior would suggest; she is hardly the whore with a heart of gold, but she is subject to doubts and fears that beset most of us, and thus is human on a scale with which we can connect.

As historical fiction "The Drowning Room" is especially solid and convincing. To say as a reviewer on the other side of the Atlantic did that it "rescues the good name of a genre badly undermined" is perhaps too large a claim to be sustained by so slender a volume as this, but there is more than a grain of truth to it.

Michael Pye captures in earthy detail the muck and mire of both the old and new Amsterdams, and the occasional flicker of gilt as well. He reminds us that at its best historical fiction is another way of telling history, and a wholly legitimate one.

Jonathan Yardley is on the staff of The Washington Post.

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Planemakers Head For Asia's Markets

Reuters

SINGAPORE — Asia's biggest air show opens here next week with top aerospace and defense companies gunning for a slice of one of the world's fastest-growing aviation and defense markets.

The Asian Aerospace show, which starts Tuesday and runs through Feb. 11, is expected to display hard-sell tactics by companies offering a range of wares including American B-2 Stealth bombers and Belgian night-and thermal-vision goggles.

Nearly 1,000 companies from more than 30 countries aim to make their presence felt at the show.

Civilian planemakers such as Boeing Co. and its rival Airbus Industrie, the European consortium, and military aircraft manufacturers from the United States, Britain, France and Russia will be at the air show's Changi site to display their hardware.

Lockheed Martin Corp., McDonnell Douglas, British Aerospace and Dassault Aviation of France are expected to show upgraded versions of their fighter aircraft at the show.

Asian countries, helped by their booming economies, offer tremendous opportunities for both military and civilian sectors, analysts said.

They said Asian states were either building up or re-equipping their armed forces to help protect the resources fueling their prosperity.

"The region of Southeast Asia is one of the last in the world where defense budgets continue to expand in the post-Cold War era," Derek da Cunha of Singapore's Institute of South East Asian Studies said.

"Between the years 2005 and 2010, the ASEAN armed forces will deploy a formidable array of hardware, the most notable aspects of which being submarines and fixed-wing aircraft," he said.

By then, he said, the air forces of the current seven members of the Association of South East Asian Nations could have a total of nearly 1,000 planes, 20 percent more than their current total.

The seven ASEAN members are Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam.

In the civilian sector, the Singapore show follows major orders by top Asian airlines, led by Singapore Airlines Ltd. and Malaysian Airline System Bhd., in the past weeks.

Singapore Airlines ordered 77 state-of-the-art Boeing 777 aircraft valued at $12.7 billion, while Malaysian Airlines took 15 Boeing 777s and 10 Boeing 747-400s valued at $4 billion as part of their fleet expansion program.

The Singapore air show ranks third in importance after the Paris show and Britain's Farnborough air show.

"We are very targeted," Jimmy Lau, director of Asian Aerospace Pte., the show's organizer. "Five or six of the world's most profitable airlines are in the Asia-Pacific region. These airlines have the money to upgrade their equipment."

Singapore Air Adding Cargo Jets

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

SINGAPORE — Singapore Airlines Ltd. increased its passenger load in 1995, but the air-freight business remained difficult, its chief said Friday, even as the company announced that it was expanding its carrier fleet.

"Passenger load factors are up one to two percentage points, and it looks like they'll hold up," the managing director of the flag carrier, Cheong Choong Kong, said. "But the cargo business continues to be tough."

A spokesman for the carrier said it expected to announce its December load factors next week. Load factors essentially measure how full flights are.

The airline took delivery of its fourth Boeing 747-400 Mega Ark freighter in August and by March 1997 will have six of the planes, said Huang Cheng Eng, the airline's director of cargo.

"We plan to increase the number of B-747 freighters to seven or eight by the end of the decade," Mr. Huang said. *(Bloomberg, AFP)*

Does Indonesia Need Nuclear?

Safety Concerns Cloud Plans

By Michael Richardson
International Herald Tribune

SINGAPORE — Why is Indonesia — a member of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries and one of the world's largest producers of natural gas — seriously considering a plan to establish a major nuclear power industry?

Djali Ahimsa, director-general of the National Atomic Energy Agency, said in Jakarta this week that recent studies had proposed starting with a 1,800-megawatt plant to generate electricity, rather than an 800-megawatt unit suggested earlier.

He said the agency hoped construction could begin in 1998 or 1999, with the plant becoming operational between 2004 and 2007.

Consisting of three 600-megawatt generators or two 900-megawatt generators, the plant would be the first of 12 nuclear power plants to be built at a cost of more than $17 billion along the northern coast of Java, Indonesia's main island, and possibly in nearby Bali as well.

Java accounts for more than 60 percent of Indonesia's population of 190 million and 80 percent of its energy consumption.

Demand for electricity on Java, where the country's major cities and industrial centers are located, is growing more than 10 percent a year.

Most of the demand is met by power stations that burn oil, gas or coal.

The Indonesian nuclear power lobby, led by Jusuf Habibie, the research and technology minister, says the country is set to become a net importer of oil by the end of the decade or soon afterward and that gas should continue to be exported to earn foreign exchange.

Environmentalists say this argument overlooks the fact that Indonesia has abundant reserves of coal, although it, too, is being extensively exported.

But their main concern is safety: Java and Bali are prone to earthquakes and have active volcanoes. The site proposed for the first nuclear plant is near a dormant volcano on Mount Muria, 440 kilometers (275 miles) east of Jakarta.

Evidently reflecting such concern, Environment Minister Sarwono Kusumaatmadja said it was "premature" to say the cabinet had made a final decision to establish a nuclear power industry, as an environmental impact study for the first plant had yet to be submitted to the government.

Emmy Hafild, speaking for the Indonesian Environmental Forum, said the authorities had refused to sanction a public debate on nuclear issues, including the risk of accidents from poor management or natural disaster.

Referring to critics of nuclear power, Mr. Habibie said: "If we listen to them, we can't develop our country. The plan will go ahead because we still lack electricity."

As with many key decisions in Indonesia, President Suharto's view will be the decisive one — and he has not yet made his position clear.

In May, the president said that "starting now, we have to make careful preparations to pave the way for use of nuclear power to meet our needs for energy in the future." But he noted that there were risks involved, especially of radioactive leakage.

Ronald E. Hagen, an energy specialist at the East-West Center in Hawaii, said that although the Indonesian government had discouraged internal criticism of the nuclear power option, "the program's future is uncertain given the country's many other power sources."

Rupee Falls To New Low; Stocks Rally

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

NEW DELHI — The rupee fell Friday to a new low against the dollar despite efforts by India's central bank to stop the slide.

Traders said heavy demand for dollars continued to outweigh sporadic dollar sales by the Reserve Bank of India, pushing the U.S. currency up to around 36.80 rupees.

They added that the outlook for the rupee remained bleak despite repeated statements by Indian officials that current dollar levels were not justified by the economic situation.

Dealers agreed that the heavy demand for dollars had been prompted by the central bank's failure to intervene strongly to protect the currency. Meanwhile, heavy buying by foreign funds lifted India's depressed bourses this week, but brokers said Friday the falling rupee could curtail the rally.

The Bombay Stock Exchange's Sensitive Index rose 5.7 percent Friday to close at 3,172.83, up 12 percent for the week. Traders said the rally had forced short-sellers to buy shares to cover their positions.

Analysts said the turnaround was due to a spillover of funds into low-priced emerging markets from U.S. stocks, which are at record highs.

"It makes sense for fund managers to book profits in high-priced U.S. stocks and put part of the money into cheaper emerging markets," said Nikesh Shah, research head at N.H. Securities in Bombay. "Indian stocks are very attractive because they are very, very cheap."

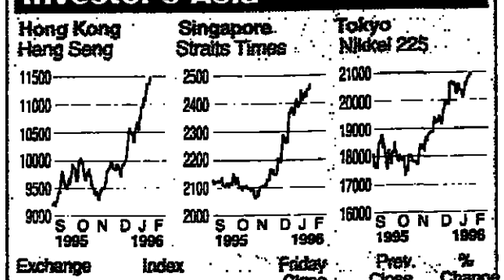
Analysts said only a few foreign funds were active buyers of Indian stocks, but their ranks could swell. "For the huge flush to happen, I think we need to wait until the end of the first quarter," said Ramnath Iyer, a strategist with Peregrine India.

But some dealers said they expected foreign buying to ease because of the sliding rupee.

"It's not very comforting," said Vijay Bhatia of the brokerage Pashupati Advani. "People will ask, 'Why now? Why not wait?' "

(AP, Knight-Ridder, Reuters)

Investor's Asia



Exchange	Index	Friday Close	Prev. Close	% Change
Hong Kong	Hang Seng	11,469.49	11,382.96	+0.84
Singapore	Straits Times	2,468.17	2,452.25	+0.65
Sydney	All Ordinaries	2,293.20	2,285.10	+0.35
Tokyo	Nikkei 225	20,904.93	20,935.12	-0.15
Kuala Lumpur	Composite	1,078.18	1,055.42	+1.68
Bangkok	SET	1,412.61	1,397.78	+1.06
Seoul	Composite Index	881.48	885.13	-0.41
Taipei	Stock Market Index	4,791.32	4,775.28	+0.34
Manila	PSE	2,927.26	2,900.83	+0.91
Jakarta	Composite Index	587.57	581.05	+1.12
Wellington	NZSE-40	2,102.50	2,111.47	-0.42
Bombay	Sensitive Index	3,172.83	3,001.42	+5.71

Source: Telekurs International Herald Tribune

Very briefly:

• An Indian parliamentary committee found an $8 million discrepancy between expenses shown by Enron Corp.'s Indian affiliate and those shown by the federal Power Ministry, according to press reports. Enron's Indian power project was cleared by Maharashtra state after almost a year's delay when the U.S. company agreed to reduce project costs.

• South Korea's trade deficit in January rose 67 percent from a year earlier, to $1.92 billion, the largest monthly deficit in four years, largely on gains in imports of aircraft and petroleum.

• Bosch-Siemens Hausgeräte GmbH, a joint venture of Siemens AG and Robert Bosch GmbH, formed partnerships in China with two local companies to make and sell refrigerators, ovens and related appliances.

• British Airways PLC will end a 14-year ticketing and reservations contract in Thailand with Inchcape PLC on April 1 to make way for a joint services agreement with Qantas Airways Ltd. of Australia.

• China Central Television is about to sign a deal giving the Australian broadcasting executive Kerry Packer access to China, according to newspaper reports.

• Jingwei Textile Machinery Co., a Chinese state-owned company, rose 7.8 percent in its first day of trading on the Hong Kong Stock Exchange.

• The Philippines raised oil prices 9 percent, or an average of 55 centavos (2 cents) a liter. *AFX, Bloomberg*

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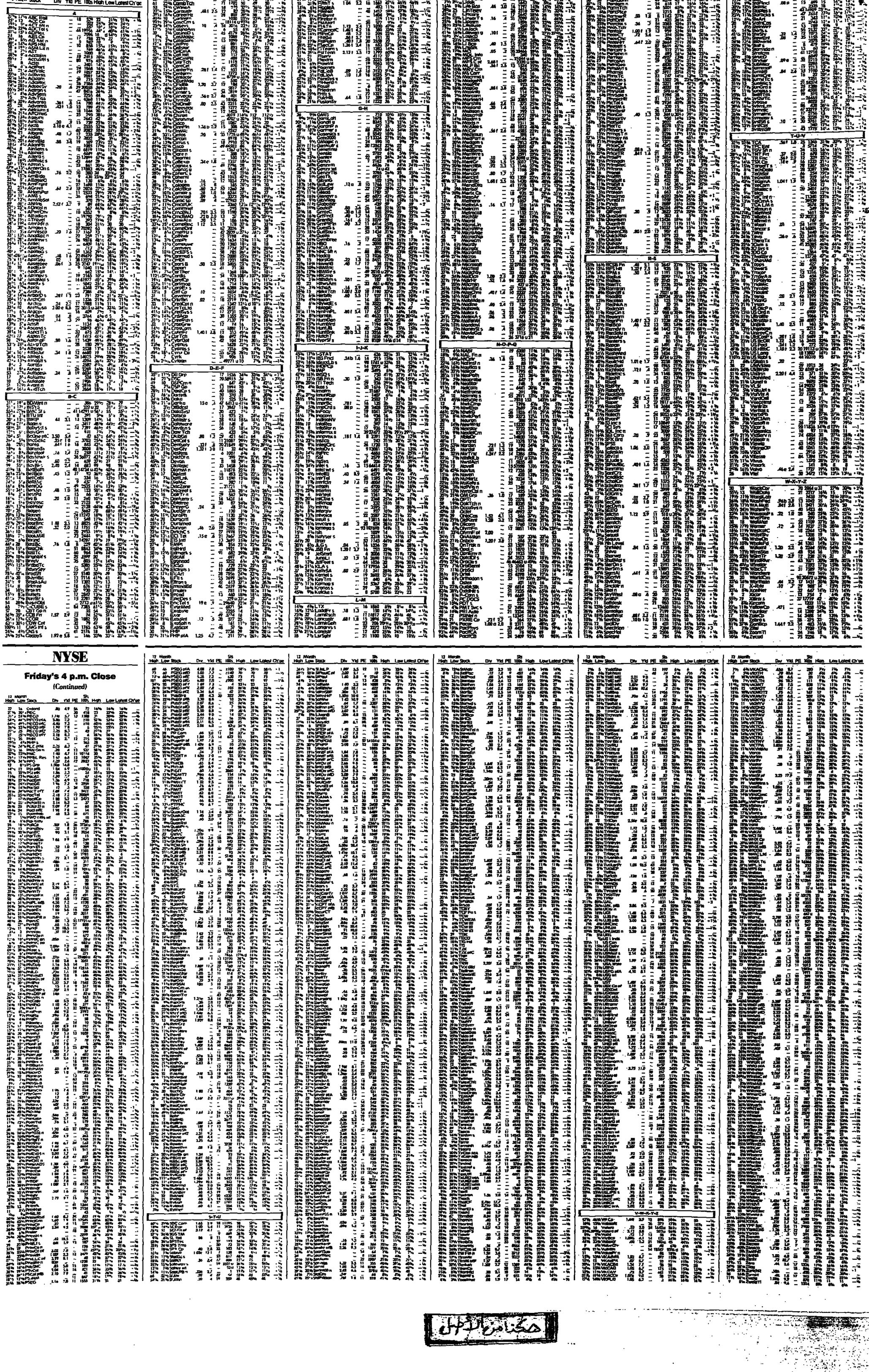
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THE MONEY REPORT

SATURDAY-SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 3-4, 1996
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FIRST COLUMN

Location, Location, Taxation

THE ancient joke in real estate is that the three most important criteria for selecting an investment are location, location and location. On an international level, however, it is slightly more complicated than that. At the risk of overdoing the rhetorical device of repetition, there are at least two other vital factors for investors to consider: taxation, taxation, taxation and currency, currency, currency.

The interaction of the financial and the fiscal can be devastating, as at least one American couple found out. They had the misfortune to buy a property in Britain when the dollar was relatively weak. They took the currency rate on offer, lived in their house and saw its sterling value soar. Come the time to move home, they realized a tidy profit — in pounds, that is. Unfortunately, the dollar had risen to near-parity with sterling by then, so more pounds actually bought them fewer dollars. In other words, they had made a dollar loss and a pound gain. Their misery was compounded by the U.K. tax authorities' sending them a tax bill for their "gain."

The moral of the story — as they now acknowledge — is that they should have taken proper tax advice.

M.B.

As Equity Bull Market Ebbs, Tide Turns in Favor of REITs

By Judith Rehak

ENTHUSIASTS of real estate investment trusts in the United States are feeling frustrated — and you can hardly blame them. As a group, equity REITs had a healthy total return of 15.27 percent in 1995, according to the National Association of Real Estate Investment Trusts. But they were hardly noticed in the spectacular bull market of 1995, where the Standard & Poor's 500 soared 34.11 percent and U.S. Treasury bonds returned an average 20 percent.

But with market forecasters now warning investors that the stock market is unlikely to turn in a repeat performance in 1996, REIT analysts say it is time for their overlooked sector to shine.

While the stock market is up 10 percent to 12 percent in a typical year, "I see REITs generating an average 15 percent total return in 1996, and that could stack up pretty favorably," says Louis Taylor, an analyst with Prudential Securities.

REITs are publicly traded companies that own and manage real estate properties ranging from apartment complexes and shopping malls to hotels and industrial parks. Some specialize in specific sectors and geographic locations, while others own a mix of holdings in various regions.

The Internal Revenue Service requires REITs to pay out 95 percent of their operating income, which generally comes from rents, to their investors in order to avoid paying corporate income taxes.

Kevin Comer, who follows the sector for Bankers Trust, thinks that REITs will prove a good defensive investment in 1996. "They're less volatile than the overall market, and they're similar to utilities, but with the major distinction that they have a much more attractive growth potential," he says.

Mr. Comer expects REIT earnings to grow about 9 percent this year, compared with 3 percent to 4 percent for utilities, plus offering a dividend yield that is likely to outperform most competitors.

Last year, REITs yielded about 7.7 percent across the entire industry, compared with 2.3 percent for the S&P 500, and 5.7 percent for the Dow Jones utility average.

But picking the winners from the 178 equity REITs currently available involves assessing a host of variables. Analysts typically monitor regional and local economic conditions, population flows, employment levels, and the supply of real estate in a given geographic area.

Two vital parts of the valuation are the quality of the REIT's management team, one that should own shares in the company, and the level of debt on the company's balance sheet.

Though investors often buy REITs for their above-average yields, analysts warn that it is a mistake to chase extremely generous dividends. "If you get much above 10 percent, you need to question what you're buying," says Mr. Comer. "Typically those that have the highest are in jeopardy of being reduced." Most of the professionals prefer a more modest 7 percent to 8 percent dividend payout, coupled with good earnings growth potential to boost the share price.

Right now some of the most favored REITs are active in the Southeast of the United States, one of the strongest growth areas in the country. Analysts say that this where expanding job markets are attracting new population and creating demand for housing.

"We like Gables Residential, an apartment REIT that is focused on cities like Houston, Nashville and Atlanta," says Jeff Helton, an analyst with PaineWebber, the New York brokerage. "In Houston, for example, apartment occupancies are basically full, and they're getting rent increases that are better than inflation rates." He expects Gables to have a total return of at least 14 percent, and possibly as high as 20 percent, this year.

Mr. Comer of Bankers Trust also likes the Southeast, where he favors Crocker Realty Trust, a new REIT that invests in suburban office parks around thriving Sunbelt cities like Atlanta and Raleigh, North Carolina.

In a different geoeconomic play, several pros are betting on Spieker Properties, which owns office and industrial space in California and the Pacific Northwest, a region which only now is recovering from the recession.

"It's my top pick," says Mr. Taylor of Prudential. "Their economy is picking up steam, and it's benefiting from demand for space from technology firms."

Also boosting Spieker's prospects, he adds, is the difficulty of getting building permits in a region where environmentalists are strong. Spieker pays a 6.5 percent dividend, and Mr. Taylor's target price for the shares, now trading around $25, is $28 to $30.

Sometimes, however, REITs do not focus on buildings.

Robert Benson, manager of the Pioneer Real Estate Shares fund, seeks niche opportunities like National Golf Properties, which buys "mom and pop" golf courses at attractive prices, improves the grounds and amenities, and then raises greens fees.

"It's been overlooked by analysts, but they have strong operating funds, and the people who run it are involved in golf themselves," he says. The stock's current yield is around the 6 percent level.

As for what to avoid, analysts are unanimous in warning investors away from REITs associated with the battered U.S. retailing sector, which has seen a rash of bankruptcies and suffered another blow from dismal Christmas sales.

"Stay away from malls with 'big box' tenants," Mr. Comer says, referring to the giant warehouse-style stores that are often the major tenants in a shopping center. "We see an industry shakeout coming in the superstore format, and they won't all survive."

Real estate experts are especially uneasy about Kmart, a discount retailer with some 500 stores in malls, because of the parent company's widely publicized financial difficulties. "If you have a Kmart and it goes dark, you have a real problem," observes Mr. Helton of PaineWebber.

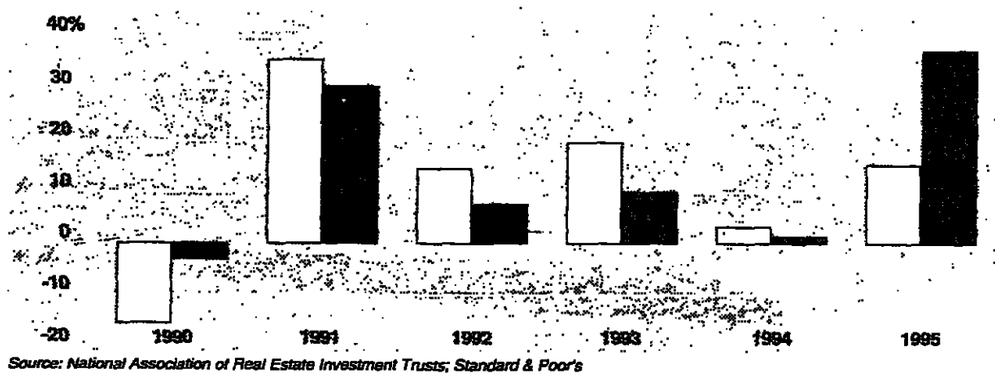
For those who like the idea of tapping into real estate, but find selecting a REIT too daunting, there has been a veritable population explosion in U.S. mutual funds specializing in the sector. Lipper Analytical Services Inc., the New York-based fund data group, tracks 30 such vehicles, up from 10 two years ago. Some of these funds invest exclusively in REITs, and there are others that also buy related companies like home construction firms and mortgage banks.

The Money Report is edited by Martin Baker

Real Estate

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State of the market in New York, Hong Kong, Tokyo, Paris, Vancouver and London
Foreign-currency mortgages

Real Estate Investment Trusts
Equity Reits vs. the S&P 500 index. Total reinvested return, %.



Source: National Association of Real Estate Investment Trusts; Standard & Poor's

Eastern Europe: Cheap at 10 Times the Risk

By Conrad de Aenlle

A very brief history of private property rights — and a much longer history of cossacks, communists, Nazis and other uninvited guests forcing people from their homes — means that property holders in Eastern Europe do not feel the same security of ownership as those in the West, no matter what a deed might say.

But because of this, prospective buyers — Western employees on assignment, citizens returning home from abroad or speculators who can stand some risk — stand to benefit from prices that are not cheap, yet are still quite reasonable, especially when compared with rental rates.

"The relationship between rental and purchase rates is still attractive," said Philip Hudson, a senior partner in Jones Estate, a firm based in Kiev that specializes in property investment in Eastern Europe. In some markets, the purchase price of residential dwellings is just three times the annual rent. In large western cities, the multiple can be 10 or more.

"If you want to buy, refurbish and hold a property, you can get it all back in two to three years and you're still holding the property," Mr. Hudson remarked. "It's still possible to get super values here."

In Ukraine, for instance, a property of 100 square meters, or 1,170 square feet, in need of refurbishing to bring it up to Western standards can run $50,000 to $80,000. An additional $30,000 to $40,000 will then have to be spent to whip the place into shape.

That doesn't sound like much of a bargain for a residence embedded in the former Soviet Union, but the rent that can then be charged is downright exorbitant — indeed higher than just about any world capital, except Tokyo, Mr. Hudson pointed out.

The rents are not as usurious in the markets closer to Western Europe. Michael Hodges, the partner in charge of Central and East European operations for Jones Lang Wootton, an international firm of real estate agents and surveyors, said that if the residence above were in Warsaw, the purchase price would run between $100,000 and $150,000. Figuring a typical rent of $2,500 a month, the sale price is up to five times the annual rent.

"Prices are as high as they have at any stage since the market was developed," Mr. Hodges noted.

The discrepancy between the ratios in Kiev and Warsaw reflects the difference in the collective opinion of buyers and renters of the potential risks and rewards in the two markets. The former is seen as less stable, and so less worth making a long-term investment.

In Poland or Russia, a foreigner can own a building but must lease the land it sits on. And because of the peculiarities of the law in some parts of the region, the practice is for foreigners to set up a company that then buys the property. If land ownership is a touchy legal matter, Mr. Hudson added, the reason is that "people had a lot of problems with land because the state owned it. Freeing up that system was quite a political hot potato."

It was nowhere hotter than in the Balkans. In Croatia, "the idea in the early years was to sell whatever property there was to the people who lived there," said an American journalist who spent two years there covering the war.

"Then they decided to give people with Croatian passports priority. Croatia was a unique situation because there were so many expatriates who wanted to come back to buy property."

Bargain-hunters take note: The government is said to be considering privatizing the ancient and beautiful city of Dubrovnik, including its housing.

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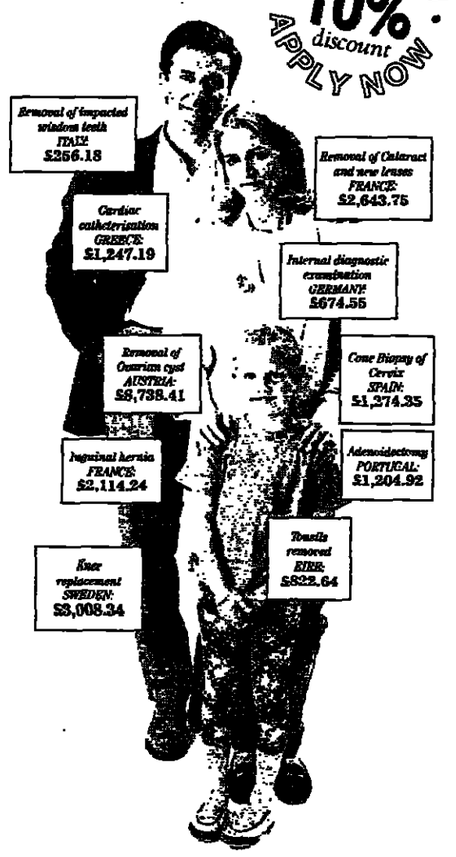
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THE MONEY REPORT

What $50,000 and a Quarter Century Can Bring: A Tale of 6 Cities

Real estate traditionally is an individual's biggest—and sometimes only—long-term investment. This week The Money Report examines what a commitment of $50,000, made 25 years ago, would be worth today in six major cities.

New York

To get an idea of what $50,000 would have bought in Manhattan 25 years ago, it is instructive to look back at the Bible of apartment hunters: The New York Times Sunday real estate section.

"Owner must sell," trumpets one advertisement in November 1971, asking $55,000 for a six-room apartment at Park Avenue and 87th Street on the city's fashionable Upper East Side. That included two bedrooms, a separate dining room and a custom kitchen. "Reservoir view," says another, touting the sought-after view of Central Park and its lake at $57,000 for five rooms with a small terrace.

"I had friends who bought a very large duplex in the Beresford, one of the city's premier buildings, on Central Park West, for $60,000 in 1971," recalls Steven James, director of sales for Douglas Elliman, one of the city's largest residential realtors. "People thought they were crazy, but that apartment is now worth more than $2 million."

A survey started in 1973 by the Corcoran Group, a residential brokerage, covered a wide range of apartment sales and came up with an average price per room of $10,600. That would have totaled $47,700 for a typical "four and a half," New York real estate language for a two-bedroom apartment. By mid-1995, that apartment had appreciated slightly more than eight times to $89,717 a room, or $397,759.

The fortunes of Wall Street, especially the size of year-end bonuses, have long ruled the city's residential market: In the early 1970s, for example, prices were held down by a two-year bear stock market and a fiscal crisis in New York City that many feared would end in bankruptcy. Apartment prices nearly quadrupled by the end of the decade as Wall Street recovered, and continued their upward spiral well into the 1980s — until the stock market crash of October 1987 sent them plummeting 30 percent over the next five years.

But perhaps the best way of assessing the change in apartment prices over the last 25 years is to ask what $50,000 would get you today. "A studio in a secondary neighborhood," says Mr. Rogers, without missing a beat.

Hong Kong

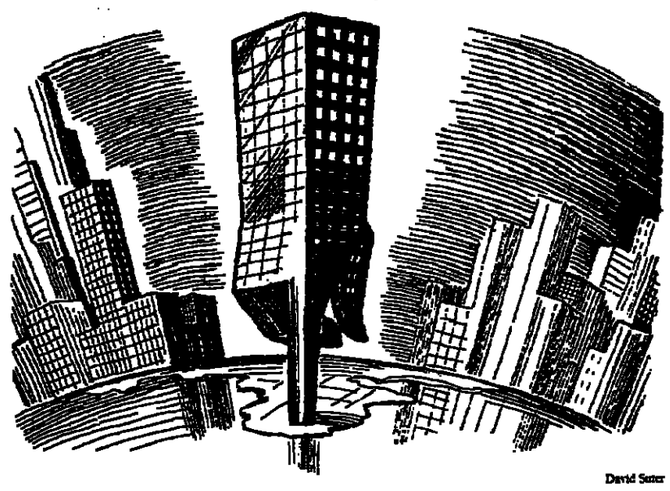
Driven by sentiment and rumor, and acutely conscious that life will alter irrevocably after the transfer of sovereignty from Britain to China in 1997, the Hong Kong real estate market is not a place for leisurely reflection. However, a backward glance a quarter century to 1971 reveals how the canny investor with time and money on his side could have amassed a fortune by investing in bricks and mortar.

In 1971 a four-bedroom apartment in Seacliff Mansions, in well-heeled Repulse Bay, went for 290,000 Hong Kong dollars, or $47,855 at the conversion rate of the day (6.06 dollars to $1).

This month a similar Seacliff Mansions apartment has come on the market at 12.8 million dollars, or $1.6 million at the current fixed exchange rate of 7.80 dollars to $1 — a spectacular rise for local and foreign investors alike.

The dizzying appreciation is not limited to sale properties. A three-bedroom apartment in the Mid-Levels area of Hong Kong Island cost only 1,700 dollars to rent per month in 1971. First Pacific Davies (Hong Kong) Ltd., a real estate agency, is currently leasing a slightly smaller apartment in the same building for 32,000 dollars a month.

Commercial property was selling for 3 dollars a square foot in the Central business district of Hong Kong in 1971. Today, according to Isabel B. Michie, director of First Pacific Davies, the average price was now about 60 dollars, with the price for new buildings often much higher.



David Suter

Tokyo

Confidence in Tokyo's real estate market has been shattered in recent years as property values have gone into spectacular free fall. One Japanese property analyst reports that prices have slid by as much as 25 percent per annum in the past 48 months. And many experts believe the worse is still to come.

"Prices in Tokyo will probably continue to decline by around 2 percent each month for at least the next 18 months. Even if the economy does start to improve in two to three years time, as some analysts predict, and property prices regain an equilibrium, it is unlikely that the market will see gains of more than 2 percent per annum by the end of the decade," says Makoto Hayashi, an executive vice president for real estate consultants Knight Frank in Tokyo.

The dramatic fall in real estate prices is directly linked to the decline of the Japanese economy. "As property makes up around 10 percent of Japan's gross national product, it is particularly sensitive to economic movements," explains Mr. Hayashi.

Investors who have held on to their Tokyo property during the 1990s may now be wishing that they had sold out when the going was good.

"The old-style Tokyo apartments, in other words property built in the 1960s and 1970s, do not represent a sound investment today," Mr. Hayashi says. "After the last major earthquake [in Kobe last year] new laws have been introduced to improve building construction. An apartment that was built 30 to 40 years ago would need substantial upgrading before it could be sold on the open market. Even with the required alterations estate agents are having difficulty shifting these apartments as there are just too many for sale."

Foreign buyers also have the currency issue to think about. An American who bought property in Tokyo 25 years ago would probably be sorely disappointed if he or she wanted to sell in the current market climate.

"In 1971, $50,000 would buy a three or four bedroom 'no frills' apartment in a modern, middle-class apartment complex in central Tokyo," Mr. Hayashi says. "The yen-dollar exchange rate in these days was quite favorable for dollar investors at 360 yen to the dollar. Today that same apartment would be technically worth around $400,000, though one dollar is now worth only 100 yen," he says.

What does the strong yen mean in terms of real estate purchasing power? "If the apartment was sold and the $400,000 reinvested, the client would probably end up with a new, one-bedroom apartment," Mr. Hayashi says.

Paris

Paris has always held a certain fascination for international property buyers. As one real estate agent puts it: "Any visitor with an ounce of sensitivity cannot help but want to own a part of it."

But sensitivity has not prevented a decline in property values since 1992 — a situation worsened by a strong franc, which has stemmed the flow of investment money from the United States. However, buyers from Eastern Europe, Italy and Germany continue to snap up quality properties in the city's prime locations, according to the experts.

"In the 1970s and early 1980s Paris properties offered really good value for money," says Donelle Higbee, a real estate analyst with Sotheby's in Paris. "Then foreign investors started to buy up property in the mid-1980s and prices skyrocketed.

"Paris is still an expensive place to buy property, but prices are continuing to fall," she continues. "As a result, many properties are now within the reach of ordinary investors. The next two to three years should be a good period in which to invest."

While Paris now abounds in good addresses, thanks to the forces of gentrification that are reclaiming marginal neighborhoods, the best locations have not changed much over the years: The 16th arrondissement, for example, was hot in 1971 and is still hot today. "In 1971 the cost per square meter of an apartment located in this fashionable quarter was around $662," says Philippe Lamy, managing director of Lamy SA, a Paris-based property consultancy. "Today the cost would be closer to $4,165. In 1971 $50,000 would buy a two-bedroom apartment in a classic apartment block in the 16th. Today the apartment value will have increased to $315,000."

Frank Rutherford, managing director of Rutherfords, a British property firm that specializes in the French market, notes that property in some of the less fashionable districts of Paris has become more sought-after over the years.

"What has tended to happen is that those who could not afford to buy in the more expensive areas, such as the 16th, have opted instead for an apartment in the 5th," on the more affordable Left Bank, Mr. Rutherford explains.

And, inevitably, he adds, "when prices started to rise in the 5th, buyers looked for bargains in other areas."

Vancouver

Vancouver is famous for its views: the Pacific Ocean to the west, snow-capped mountains to the east. In 1971, $50,000 — then almost exactly equivalent to 50,000 Canadian dollars — would have bought a house with both ocean and mountain views if the buyer looked carefully enough.

The house would have likely have been about 1,500 square feet (160 square meters) with three bedrooms, a full cellar and a good-sized garden, said Heiner Blum, an agent with Vancouver's Re/Max Central. Depending on the neighborhood, the buyer could have had a brand-new house or a used one, which in Vancouver terms means constructed in the 1920s.

Today, depending on its location and whether the neighborhood moved upscale or down, that house would be worth seven to 12 times as much, according to real estate agents.

One of the major factors behind the price run-up is an influx of buyers from Hong Kong and, to a lesser extent, Taiwan. Tens of thousands of Asian immigrants come to Canada every year and after three years of residency receive citizenship. Vancouver, 12 hours away by plane, makes an ideal second home for Hong Kong residents looking for a safe haven if things are not to their liking once the British colony is returned to China next year.

Since 1984, when Britain signed the deal to return Hong Kong to Chinese control, the prices of Vancouver real estate have reflected the political situation in the colony. After the 1989 massacre of pro-democracy demonstrators near Tienanmen Square, Vancouver real estate began a steep climb that saw prices almost double by 1994, and then finally drop 10 percent and level off to current levels.

Even though Asian buyers have tended to buy at the top end, their purchases have had a domino effect that is felt throughout the market, says Donald Andrews, a real estate agent with 25 years in the business.

Mr. Blum says that when he shows houses selling for 350,000 Canadian dollars ($255,000) and up, 80 percent of prospective buyers are Asian. Over 500,000 dollars the ratio rises to 95 percent.

Nor were Hong Kong buyers strangers to the frenzied panic buying of the early 1990s. In fact, says Frank Chang of West-East Realty, which specializes in Hong Kong clients, Hong Kong buyers "consider the Vancouver market is not that good for them. Real estate in Hong Kong doubles all the time."

Of course, it is not only Hong Kong investors who are responsible for the Vancouver property boom. Canadians from the rest of the country often move there, attracted by the mild winters and pleasant views. Vancouver, like its U.S. neighbor Seattle, has experienced something of a high-tech boom, and with it a growth in population: Greater Vancouver now counts 1.8 million residents, compared to 1.1 million 25 years ago.

London

So much is spoken and written about the gloom in the London property market that it is easy to forget that over the past 25 years it has been an excellent investment. Anyone who bought a two-bedroom flat in Chelsea, Knightsbridge or Kensington in 1971 for $50,000 would today be sitting on a property worth $331,100.

And that is the price for two-bedroom flats in the most fashionable streets: Onslow Gardens, Redcliffe Square or around the embassies in Queensgate. "If you want a house, you could find one for that money in Stanhope Mews South or a bit further out in Fulham," says Peter Rollings, head of the Kensington branch of the real estate agency Foxtons.

The return on London property over the past 25 years easily outstrips inflation. If the investor had index-linked the same $50,000 it would be worth $224,000.

Sterling investors did even better than dollar investors over the period, showing a whopping 975 percent return. The devaluation of sterling against the dollar from $2.40 to around $1.50 eroded gains for dollar-based investors. However, they still came away with a healthy 562 percent.

Furthermore, the figures do not take into account the total return that an investor would have got from renting the property. Throughout much of the period London had a very healthy rental market. Based on the rental yield common in central London today this could have added as much as 4 percent a year after inflation.

Within this overall picture, houses in London have provided a slightly better capital return than apartments because of their scarcity. However, apartments tend to provide a slightly better income. "Houses and flats have probably given investors the same total return," says Charles Illingworth, partner of Property Vision, which helps overseas buyers find real estate in Britain.

Many real estate experts in London believe that London property could easily deliver the same returns over the next 25 years. They say that many of the factors that drove up property prices in the 1970s and 1980s are still there. "Inflation may not be there to the same extent, but there is still a shortage of supply and an excess of demand," says Yolanda Barnes, head of residential research at Savilles in London.

She argues that the trend is for "prime" central London to expand outside its traditional area. "Prime used to mean anything that was in sight of Harrods," the huge department store in Knightsbridge, she says. But today, "anywhere within the Circle Line," a subway line that circles London, "is prime. Lofts in Soho and Clerkenwell are now prime property," she says.

Her advice to any overseas buyer who wants to benefit from what she believes will be a healthy return from London property is: "Be adventurous. Look for cheaper areas near the old 'prime' area. The gains from these cheaper areas are likely to be greater."

But she points out a factor that long-time London residents know only too well: Location means, above all, proximity to public transportation. "Communication and access to the tube," she says, "is important."

Judith Rehak, Owen Hughes, Iain Jenkins, Barbara Wall and Ann Brocklehurst contributed to this report.

Mortgage Loans for the Strong at Heart

By Aline Sullivan

MORTGAGES in foreign currencies have long been the preserve of the cognoscenti among professional investors. But the stay-at-home borrower should think again.

Borrowing in another country's currency means the loan is based on that country's prevailing interest rate, which may be much lower than where the property is purchased. A yen mortgage, for example, will carry an interest rate of about 2 percent, compared with more than 7 percent for sterling or U.S. dollars.

Investors with the pluck to take on a foreign currency mortgage can find themselves paying about a third of their neighbor's monthly bill. Better still, switching currencies at the appropriate times can enable the borrower to make substantial inroads in the outstanding loan.

"Servicing a yen mortgage worth $400,000 (42.9 million yen) will cost about $667 a month as opposed to $2,333 a month for a dollar mortgage," points out Nick Sutton, managing director of Provecta Ltd., a London finance brokerage. "And if the value of the yen drops to 125 to the dollar from the current level of about 104, the loan would suddenly decrease by $100,000."

Of course, it can all go terribly wrong. Banks willing to lend in foreign currencies often convert the loan to the local currency when a trading loss exceeds a predetermined amount, usually between 10 percent and 15 percent of the outstanding loan.

For that reason, few of these mortgages survived the collapse of the European Exchange Rate Mechanism, or ERM, in 1992 when the value of sterling and several other European currencies plunged against the dollar.

Michael Petley, managing director of ECU, a London-based currency management firm, observes that few brokers have marketed multi-currency loans since the ERM debacle.

"Most of the recent demand for currency loan facilities has come from very knowledgable financial professionals who decided that the risk reward ratio makes good sense," Mr. Petley says. "But the outlook now is as good as it has ever been and I expect brokers to start focusing on these loans."

Mr. Petley expects yen mortgages to perform particularly well over the next five years. "The only chance the major Japanese life insurers have of meeting their liabilities is by investing heavily overseas. That will bring down the value of the yen," he says.

Other currencies likely to decline are the Deutsche mark and the Swiss and French francs, Mr. Petley says: "These currencies have been on an upward trend for 15 years. They are now heavily overvalued." In contrast, the U.S. dollar is likely to rise thanks to worldwide demand for dollar-denominated commodities; he expects sterling to remain stable.

The banks are already reporting a pick-up in business. Paul Bensley, a private banking officer at the Bank of Boston in London, is seeing more demand for foreign currency mortgages but insists that the bank be confident of the borrower's ability to assess the risk of such an investment. "If a client comes in who is an investment banker," he says, "then we wouldn't have a problem. Other borrowers must have an adviser."

Borrowers willing to stake their houses on their ability to predict and monitor the foreign exchange markets are understandably rare outside the financial community. Expatriates from other walks of life frequently arrange mortgages in same currency as their paycheck, but few have ventured into speculating in other currencies.

But that need not be the case. Even most professional investors borrowing in another currency employ a currency manager who constantly monitors the client's exposure and redenominates the loan as he or she sees fit. In exchange, the manager receives an annual fee of about 0.85 percent of the loan and roughly 15 percent of any debt reduction.

But these loans are not appropriate for everyone. Certainly, first-time buyers need not apply: Borrowers need a hefty deposit. No bank will lend more than 70 percent of the purchase price and most will risk only 60 percent. Few British banks, for example, will consider loans under £150,000 ($227,000).

BRIEFCASE

European Stocks Could Power A Bull Market in 1996, Bank Says

After the strong performance by U.S. shares in 1995, continental Europe could be next, according to Morgan Stanley & Co. "Despite the current pervading gloom on the economies, it promises to be a good year for stocks, the best since 1993," a recent report says. "Given a combination of lower short and long interest rates, a second-half growth recovery and a stronger dollar, we believe that Europe can give equity investors a total return in the region of 20 percent in 1996."

Germany is expected to show the highest returns among major markets, at 26 percent, followed by Italy at 24 percent, France at 19 percent, and Britain at 8 percent.

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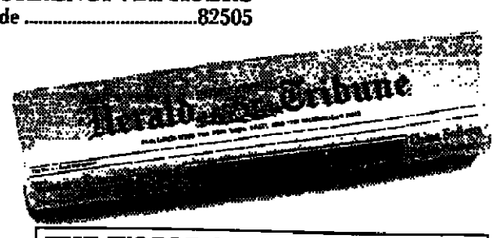
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THE WORLD'S DAILY NEWSPAPER

Herald International Tribune
SPORTS

WORLD ROUNDUP



Reuters/Scanpix AP

Katja Seizinger, after taking Friday's World Cup Super-G.

Seizinger Victorious

SKIING Katja Seizinger of Germany took her fourth World Cup race of the season as she conquered a tricky super-G course Friday for her 21st career victory.

She was timed in one minute, 11.32 seconds. Second was the Austrian Renate Goetschl, whose time of 1:11.58 prevented a German sweep since Hilde Gerg was third in 1:11.71 and Martina Ertl was fourth in 1:11.73. The course dropped 510 meters (1,673 feet) through 34 gates.

In Garmisch-Partenkirchen, Germany, Luc Alphand of France mastered the tough Kandahar course and clinched his third victory of the season when he won a World Cup downhill on Friday.

Alphand made few mistakes on a track made soft by a sudden, sharp rise in the temperature. He posted a time of one minute, 52.61 seconds to win comfortably ahead of Brian Stemmle of Canada. *(AP)*

Seahawks Are Sued

FOOTBALL King County, Washington, sued the Seattle Seahawks on Friday to prevent the team from moving to another city.

County officials called a late-morning news conference to announce the pre-emptive strike, which came one day after sources on the Seahawks said owner Ken Behring was moving the team to Los Angeles.

The suit seeks a temporary restraining order and preliminary injunction that also would prevent the team from playing their home games in any location other than the Kingdome.

The Seahawks have a lease to play in the Kingdome through the 2005, but Behring has complained about the stadium. *(AP)*

Nigerian Soccer Team Suspended From Nation's Cup Play Until 2002

Ban Is Likely to Lead to Expulsion From 1998 World Cup

Soccer / **Rob Hughes**

LONDON — The African Football Confederation chose Friday, on the eve of its Nation's Cup final in Johannesburg, to banish Nigeria from African Nation's Cup soccer from now until the next century. The expulsion, an expected reprisal for Nigeria's failure to turn up to defend its title as African champion, could not have been more ill-timed.

It dampened the euphoria, amounting to a revivalist celebration, of 80,000 predominantly black South Africans heading for Soccer City, the stadium near Soweto, where the host country on Saturday attempts to emulate the white rugby Springboks by winning the first international event open to it after 30 years of isolation.

It reminded everyone that, whereas South Africa and Tunisia reached this final, the tournament was devalued from the start by Nigeria's absence.

Worse, it reaffirmed that sportsmen are pawns, mere symbols to be used and sacrificed like soldiers to the political wars of their country's rulers.

FIFA, the international soccer federation, has yet to announce officially that Nigeria will be expelled from all international competition while the African ban is enforced. But it is inevitable, it is written in stone in FIFA statutes, that such a ban is extended worldwide, and FIFA's general secretary, Sepp Blatter, said as much before the 20th African Cup of Nations kicked off in Johannesburg on January 13.

Before we can even consider the aspirations of South African and Tunisian players, we are obliged to reflect on the hollowness of games played without the leading performers. Nigerians, are that in Africa and beyond.

From this weekend, the likes of Daniel Amokachi, an explosive goalscorer who helped Everton win England's Cup Final last summer, and Finidi George, a cunning and dignified winger whose Ajax Amsterdam club is the best in Europe, are players without a hope of World Cup or African Cup fulfillment.

We knew, when we heard of the probability of this decision, how devastating the measure would be, how it would deprive the world of a Nigerian generation of footballers who surpassed any of their continent at the 1994 World Cup in the United States.

But we did not anticipate the announcement coming before the euphoric conclusion to the current tournament. Officials had 21 days in which to make the decision which, in itself, cannot be criticized.

Sadly, they waited until Friday. Sadder still, the punished players are guilty of nothing except obeying an instruction, an order, from a military ruler.

Nigeria's team was ready to play. Its soccer association begged to play. General Sani Abacha refused to allow it. He used his sportsmen to spite South Africa because its president, Nelson Mandela, had sought sanctions after the hanging of nine dissidents by the Nigerian regime.

"The Nigerian federation accepts this punishment because we know what we were exposed to because of our withdrawal," said Adegboye Onigbinde, a Nigerian football official on Friday. "But we were not responsible for this withdrawal. The government must have its reasons, but it's not the end of the world."

The sport cannot bow down to the powers that be; the only victims are sportsmen.

Now, with as much relish as we can summon, we have the showpiece, the finale of South Africa versus Tunisia. Despite the bravura of Clive Barker, South Africa's pugnacious coach, telling Nelson Mandela on Jan. 12 "your example inspires us, we will not let you down," neither team anticipated being finalists in their wildest dreams.

South Africa had to eliminate Ghana, the second most gifted African team, after Nigeria. Tunisia, written off by me and many others, had to overcome Zambia.

The semifinal scores brook no argument: South Africa 3, Ghana 0, and Tunisia 4, Zambia 2.

Bafana Bafana ("the Boys, as South Africa's players are known), combine British bullishness (they watch three English league games a week) with African flair. Mark Fish, the big defender, ignites them with muscular, surging runs; John "Shoes" Moshoeu, a Sowetan to his fingertips, flits in and out of games but scores memorable goals.

Indeed, let us rejoice. The so-called Rainbow Nation needed the round ball success after the Afrikaner rugby and cricket achievements. It was Francois Pienaar, rugby captain supreme, who said: "Being in the stadium when Bafana Bafana is winning, being accepted as a white among blacks, is a dimension beyond winning the rugby world cup. My mind is too small to appreciate everything that has happened, that's why you feel so little."



Ullstein

Daniel Amokachi, who helped Everton win England's Cup last summer, shown in action last fall, is one Nigerian star who is affected by the ban.

Tunisia may not shrink before Saturday's craving for a South African conclusion. Its team, coached methodically by the Pole Henryk Kasperczak, has an obdurate resilience.

The players are all with Tunisian clubs, something unique in this cup of nations who, between them, have almost 400 players performing as mercenaries in European and even Latin American leagues. Maybe that concentrates the Tunisian minds. At an average age of 22, fasting through Ramadan, representing Arabia south of the equator, they defend hard, break quickly, and against Zambia finish with a serpent's sting.

Come the final clamor of 80,000 voices, the prize may go to the team that wants it the most. "The rugby boys have done it, so we need to too," reasons coach Barker. "Sports breaks down more barriers than politics. My boys know they have to win."

Panathinaikos and Bologna Gird Up

By Ian Thomsen
International Herald Tribune

EUROPEAN BASKETBALL

LONDON — Panathinaikos Athens and Buckler Bologna of Italy might be the most talented basketball clubs outside of the United States, but only one — the winner of their game next week in an empty arena — is likely to advance to the European quarterfinals next month.

Panathinaikos is reeling after its 96-87 loss to Benfica Lisbon on Wednesday. Benfica (2-10) is the worst of the 16 teams in the European league, while Panathinaikos (7-5), which has made the Final Four the last two years, is led by the richest player in Europe — the former NBA star Dominique Wilkins — as well as the shot-blocking center Stojko Vrankovic. Their coach, Bozidar Maljkovic, has won two European championships.

After Greek supporters threw coins at the visiting Pau-Orthez bench last week, Panathinaikos was fined 100,000 Deutsche marks ($67,100) by the international basketball federation, or FIBA, and was ordered to play Bologna on Thursday without spectators. Given the pressures exerted by its fans, an arena of 18,000 empty seats might actually help Panathinaikos.

Bologna (6-6) moved into a three-way tie for fourth place in its group with a comeback 86-83 victory Thursday at Maccabi Tel Aviv, the new (and perhaps temporary) home to ex-NBA all star Tom Chambers. The Italians appeared dead with a hand injury to Orlando Woolridge, and a tough finishing schedule. But Woolridge returned with 18 points against Maccabi, complementing the 26 of Arijan Komazec, and suddenly their team's showdown with fading Panathinaikos didn't seem hopeless.

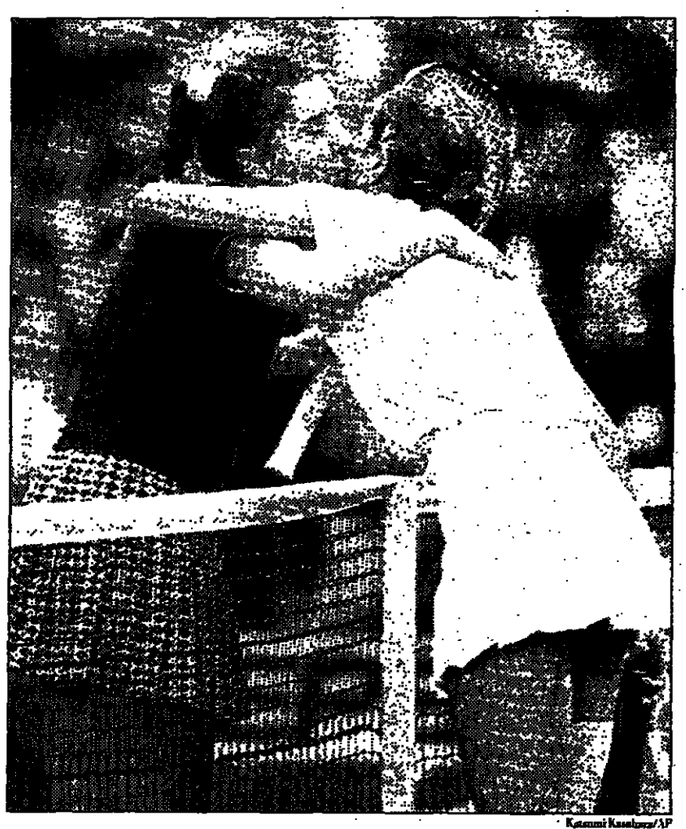
Barcelona (9-3) is likely to win Group B, which would earn the top seed in a best-of-three series next month against the weakest quarterfinalist from the other group. Panathinaikos is tied for second with defending champion Real Madrid (7-5), which should be in good shape after its next game at home with Benfica.

Should Panathinaikos lose next week, the Greeks would presumably have to win their final game at Tel Aviv (5-7) in order to qualify. Bologna understands that it probably has to beat Panathinaikos and then win at home against Madrid.

In Group A, three teams have advanced to the next round — CSKA Moscow (9-3), Olympiakos (8-4) and Benetton Treviso (8-4) — the latter moving on despite its 84-70 loss at Moscow Thursday. The last quarterfinalist from Group A will likely be the winner of Malaga of Spain (5-7) at Ulkerspor Istanbul (6-6) on February 15.

The other contender, Olympique Antibes (5-7) of France, fell to joint fifth place while providing Olympiakos Piraeus with its third straight European win, 98-83. Olympiakos, aiming to play in a third consecutive European final — and hoping to become the first Greek champion — ran off 17 unanswered points in the second half.

Rival CSKA reaffirmed itself with a straightforward 84-70 beating of Treviso, which had tied for the Group A lead last week when the Moscow army team was shocked by last-place Iraklis Salonika. CSKA is similar to the former-Yugoslavian powers of a few years ago, in its reliance on native talents, such as Igor Kudelin.



Katsumi Kasahara/AP

Monica Seles kisses Iva Majoli of Croatia after being upset by her in a quarterfinal match at the Touray Pan Pacific Open in Tokyo on Friday.

M&M: Return Engagement at the Forum

By David Aldridge
Washington Post Service

INGLEWOOD, California — This is really The Way Things Ought to Be. Friday night, just got paid, going to the Forum. The Laker Girls, 17,505 at the Great Western Forum, "I Love L.A." on the public address system. Bulls-Lakers. Michael and Magic. Together again. Who would've thought?

Magic Johnson's second game on his Senior Tour came against his old friend and foe, Michael Jordan. They were two-thirds of a triumvirate, along with Larry Bird, that helped save the league a decade ago. Twelve months ago, they were gone. And the NBA suffered. But now, Jordan's team is the best in basketball: 39-3 with a 16-game winning streak. And Johnson's Lakers are dripping with promise now that the 36-year-old has returned after four years away.

Johnson's 19-point, 10-assist, 8-rebound performance in his first game Tuesday has electrified the league. There are questions about what it all means, but at its base, if it was not a one-game mirage, it means a new generation of basketball lovers will get to see one of the greats still near the height of his powers.

"To come back in the middle of the season in the first game and to perform the way he did, I felt like I wish I would have been watching him the last four years," said the New York Knicks general manager, Ernie Grunfeld.. "He plays the game the way it should be played. He's totally unselfish, totally team oriented."

How good was Johnson?

"They were a good team 48 hours ago," the Indiana Pacers general manager, Donnie Walsh, said Friday. "I think they're a contending team now."

How big was Johnson?

Johnson's first game back drew a 4.4 rating (2.9 million homes) for cable's Turner Network Television on Tuesday — more than three points higher than normal and the highest rating for the network for a late game of a double-header. The rating also was the third-highest for any TNT game in the 12 years it's been broadcasting NBA games, behind Jordan's 55-point game in New York last year and a Lakers-Celtics matchup in 1987 in which one E. Johnson hit the game-winning shot at the buzzer.

But TNT expected Friday night's Bulls-Lakers game to set a ratings record.

"We were going to issue a press release," a TNT spokesman said. "And then we figured, why bother?"

Comparisons have been made between Johnson's comeback and Jordan's return to the Bulls last season. But there are two big differences. One, Jordan came back in late March, with just 17 regular season games left, and the Bulls had to readjust on the run with the playoffs right around the corner. Johnson will have 40 regular season games over two months to get used to his new teammates.

Two, Jordan needs to score for the Bulls to win. So his return was an up-and-down affair as he struggled to get his game legs back. Johnson impacts the game much more with his passes than his points, and playing at forward, he'll help the Lakers rebound, too.

"Magic is a different player than what we had to adjust to last year," said former Bulls guard B.J. Armstrong, now with Golden State. "We had to adjust to a scorer. Magic is not a scorer, so it has to be a little bit easier."

Last year, he said, "there really wasn't a comfort zone. There just wasn't enough time. You can't put a season into 17 games, whatever it is he came back for. It was worth taking the gamble, but the reality was that time wasn't on our side."

On the court, one of the most intriguing things about Johnson's return is that he's coming back at a new position, power forward. Though he's played every position at times for the Lakers, he always was primarily a ball handler. He'll do some of that now, but Nick Van Exel will man the point.

Posting up opponents, Johnson will be very hard to guard. He can score with either hand with the skyhook he learned from Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, and he can muscle most everyone under the basket. His repertoire of ball fakes and footwork will have lots of defenders leaving their feet early.

Lakers coach Del Harris is even more excited about Johnson as a passer in the low post.

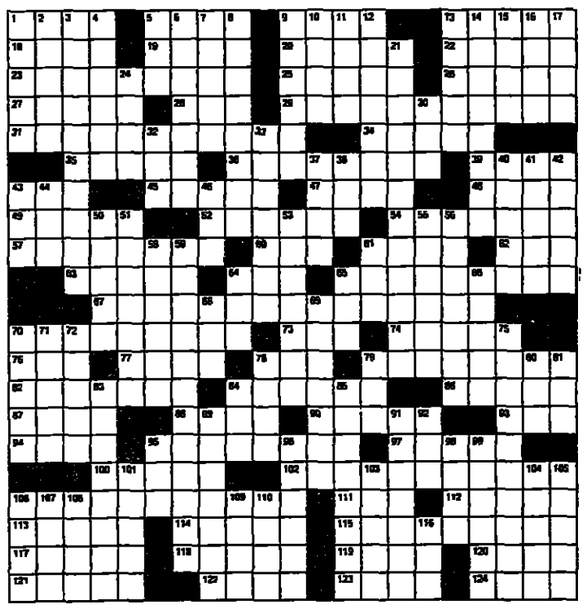
Anti-handcheck rules and tougher zone defense interpretations means teams will have to send people immediately to double-team Johnson, only the game's greatest passer, who will then have the option of hitting cutters down the lane, or throwing to the weak side to a three-point shooter.

"You can forget about doubling Magic," Walsh said. "That would be suicide. Same way if it was Larry Bird."

The counter? League types said that they would attack Johnson at the defensive end, make him guard somebody down low, and then pound him when he fights for rebounds. He is, after all, 36, and not capable of reproducing the physical activity he exerted a decade ago. And despite touring the world the past couple of years, he's not yet in NBA shape.

"We're all trying to say what the old Magic would bring to this team," Armstrong said. "But it's not the old Magic. I know that, he knows that, all of us who've been around know what this game does. It takes away from your body. No matter how blessed an athlete you are, it takes away from everyone who plays this game."

WITH COMPLIMENTS By David J. Kahn

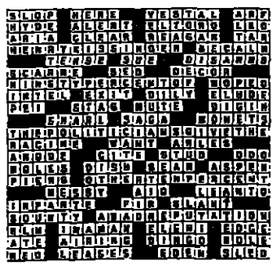


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44 — standstill
46 Name add-on
50 — part (role-plays)
51 Olympics event
53 Ribbon holder of song
55 Bassanio's love
56 Take for oneself
58 Off-base
59 Compliment for the Marquis de Sade?
61 Before the presen'
64 Archeological datum
65 "So!"
66 Actress Scacchi
68 "Am — blame?"
69 Minor-league, maybe
70 Zingers
71 Milieu of 99-Down
72 Israeli region
75 *Sales tax in* some states
78 Lateen-rigged boat
79 *Its scientific* name is Naja *haje*
80 Go (for)
81 That: Sp.
83 Sunken spaces
84 Hosp. personnel
85 Assisted, *in a* way
89 Practices teetotalism
91 Commit
92 Down Under bounder
95 — *favor*
96 Hans Christian Andersen's birthplace
98 Litter-free
99 "Master Class" subject
101 Sells by machine
103 Fraser of 50's-60's tennis
104 — nothing of
105 *Dispatch*
106 Code word for "A"
107 Conceal, as a card
108 Kind of pipe
109 Racketeer's org.?
110 Request
116 Nice article

Solution to Puzzle of Jan. 27-28



Jotting Pad

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SPORTS

Knicks Tame the Shaq

Bulls' Juggernaut Keeps Rolling

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — A week and a half after reaching the low point of their season, the New York Knicks seem to have turned things around.

They've won four in a row, they're just a game or two behind their pace of the last two years, and they finally did well at home against a team with a better record by beating the Orlando Magic 110-102 on Thursday night.

"No doubt the Bulls game woke us up," said forward Charles Smith, in reference to the above-mentioned low point, a blowout loss at home 10 days ago against the NBA's best team. Patrick Ewing led New York with 23 points and Anthony Mason had 21. Hubert Davis added 17 points, Charles Oakley had 11 points and 14 rebounds, Derek Harper had 15 points and a season-high 12 assists and Smith chipped in 10 points.

Ewing missed his final 15 shots and didn't score a point in the second half. But Mason scored on a putback after Ewing's 12th straight miss, then added a fast-break layup that ended Orlando's last surge of the night in the fourth quarter. New York moved to within 2½ games of Orlando in the Atlantic Division.

Shaquille O'Neal had 18 points for the Magic — 8.7 below his average — while Anfernee Hardaway scored only six.

Bulls 105, Kings 85 Michael Jordan scored 27 points and Dennis Rodman tied his season high with 21 rebounds as the Bulls won their 17th straight, 105-85 over the Sacramento Kings.

The Bulls claimed yet another NBA mark, improving their record to 40-3 while warming up for Friday night's showdown against Magic Johnson and the Lakers. The record was for the most wins with just three losses. The 1971-72 Los Angeles Lakers were 39-3.

Jordan had his second straight rough shooting night, hitting seven of his 16 shots, but adding 13 free throws. He was just 7-for-26 from the field in Tuesday's 98-87 win at Houston.

Heat 124, 76ers 104 Rex Chapman scored 23 points and Miami rallied with a barrage of 3-pointers in the fourth quarter to beat Philadelphia.

Miami reserve guard Voshon Lenard hit a pair of 3-point baskets as the Heat stretched an 85-80 lead to 102-87 at the start of the fourth quarter. Lenard, a rookie, finished with 15 points.

Alonzo Mourning scored 20 points and grabbed nine rebounds for Miami, while Trevor Ruffin had 28 points to lead Philadelphia, which has lost 10 of its last 11 games.

Rockets 116, Hornets 111 Sam Cassell scored all 22 of his points in the final 14:43 to help Houston continue its mastery of Charlotte.

Hakeem Olajuwon added 32 points and 11 rebounds as the Rockets erased a pair of 10-point deficits and ran their all-time record against Charlotte to 17-2.

Charlotte got 24 points each from Matt Geiger and Kenny Anderson. Geiger's total was one point higher than the center's previous career high.

Pistons 87, Pacers 70 Otis Thorpe had 23 points and a season-high 14 rebounds as Detroit cooled off red-hot Indiana.

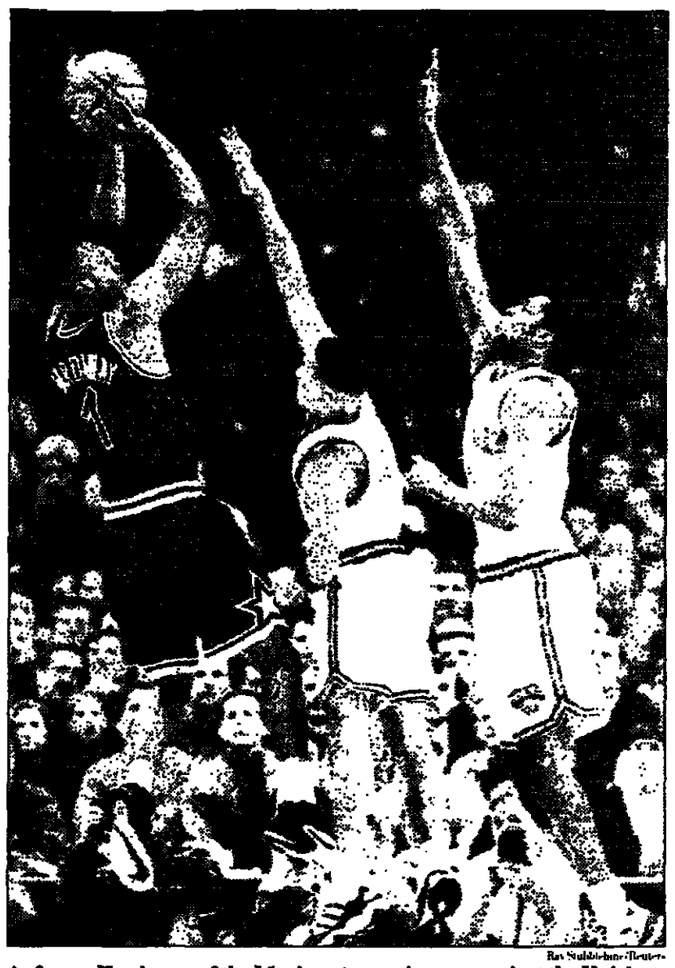
The loss snapped Indiana's winning streak at seven, one short of the Pacers' NBA-franchise record. Indiana's leading scorer, Reggie Miller, had just nine points and the Pacers had their worst scoring night of the season.

Bucks 108, Nuggets 102 Vin Baker scored 11 of his 26 points in the fourth quarter and Milwaukee hung on to defeat Denver in a game marred by three players being ejected.

Milwaukee's Sherman Douglas and Denver's Jalen Rose were thrown out of the game in the third quarter after exchanging blows, and LaPhonso Ellis got tossed in the fourth period for pushing Milwaukee's Marty Conlon.

Mavericks 103, SuperSonics 100 Jason Kidd scored a season-high 36 points — three short of a career high — and Dallas matched a team record for 3-pointers with 14 as the Mavericks halted Seattle's six-game winning streak.

George McCloud added 23 points for the Mavericks, who had dropped two of their previous three games.



Ray Stubblebine/Reuters

Anfernee Hardaway of the Magic puts up a jumper against the Knicks.

NBA ROUNDUP

Flyers Down Canadiens In Fight-Filled Marathon

The Associated Press

The game ended in overtime. The feud is far from over.

Eric Desjardins scored from the right circle with 29 seconds remaining in overtime as Philadelphia beat Montreal 3-2 in a fight-filled game Thursday night.

The nastiness began midway through the second period when Canadiens center, Marc Bureau, took a run at Flyers defenseman Petr Svoboda, knocking him out with a concussion. Svoboda was unconscious when he was taken off the ice on a stretcher and Bureau received a major elbowing penalty.

Even with the victory, Philadelphia wasn't about to forgive — or forget. "The score is never settled with something like that," Philadelphia's Eric Lindros said.

As time wound down in overtime, Shjon Podein scrambled for the puck behind the Montreal net and spotted Desjardins coming down from the point. Desjardins ripped a shot that got by Pat Jablonski for his fifth goal of the season. The loss snapped Montreal's four-game winning streak. The Flyers had been winless in their previous four games.

Bruins 2, Panthers 2 Jody Hull knocked a rebound past Bill Ranford at 11:15 of the third period and John Vanbiesbrouck stopped four Boston shots in overtime as the Bruins and Florida Panthers played to a 2-2 tie.

Despite solid shots from Ray Bourque, Rick Tocchet and Steve Heinze, whose effort came on a faceoff in front of the Panthers' goal, Vanbiesbrouck (18-9-5) shut the door on the Bruins in the overtime period.

Bill Ranford (16-21-6) stopped 25 Florida shots, including two in overtime.

Capitals 4, Senators 2 Dale Hunter scored the winner midway through the third period as the Washington Capitals overcame a two-goal deficit to beat the Ottawa Senators 4-2.

Michal Pivonka, Keith Jones and Steve Konawalchuk also scored for the Capitals. Frank Musil and Steve Duchesne scored for Ottowa, which has the NHL's worst record at 9-39-2.

Blues 2, Canucks 2 Alexander Mogilny had one apparent goal waved off in the final minute of regulation, then scored with 7.9 seconds to go to give the Vancouver Canucks a 2-2 tie with the St. Louis Blues.

The goal, Mogilny's 40th and third in three games against the Blues, came on his third scoring chance of the last minute.

Avalanche 6, Jets 4 Joe Sakic ignited a three-goal rally in the second period with a shorthanded goal and Claude Lemieux scored two goals as the Colorado Avalanche defeated the Winnipeg Jets 6-4.

Alexei Zhamnov had his first hat trick of the season for the Jets, who are 3-2-1 in their last six road games. Winnipeg, the NHL's second-best power-play team, scored twice with the extra man.

Devils 1, Flames 1 A goal by Brian Rolston late in the third period earned the New Jersey Devils a 1-1 tie with the Calgary Flames.

The goal came at 16:42 when Rolston burst into the offensive zone on right wing and beat goalie Trevor Kidd with a shot from about 30 feet.

Kings 6, Sharks 6 Jari Kurri twice made up deficits with a pair of third-period goals as the Los Angeles Kings gained a 6-6 tie with the San Jose Sharks.

The Sharks had pulled in front 5-3 when Jamie Baker scored his second goal of the night with 17:40 remaining and Chris Tancill added another on a breakaway, beating Kelly Hrudey.

NHL ROUNDUP

SCOREBOARD

BASKETBALL

NBA Standings

EASTERN CONFERENCE

ATLANTIC DIVISION

	W	L	Pct	GB
Orlando	31	13	.705	—
New York	28	15	.651	2½
Washington	21	21	.500	9
Miami	20	25	.444	11½
New Jersey	17	26	.395	13½
Boston	16	27	.372	14½
Philadelphia	8	35	.186	22½

CENTRAL DIVISION

Chicago	40	3	.930	—
Indiana	29	15	.659	11½
Atlanta	24	19	.558	16
Cleveland	23	20	.535	17
Detroit	22	20	.524	17½
Charlotte	21	22	.488	19
Milwaukee	16	26	.381	23½
Toronto	12	31	.279	28

WESTERN CONFERENCE

MIDWEST DIVISION

	W	L	Pct	GB
San Antonio	28	13	.683	—
Utah	29	14	.674	—
Houston	30	16	.652	½
Denver	18	26	.409	11½
Dallas	15	27	.357	13½
Minnesota	11	30	.268	17
Vancouver	10	34	.227	19½

PACIFIC DIVISION

Seattle	32	12	.727	—
L.A. Lakers	25	18	.581	6½
Sacramento	23	17	.575	7
Portland	21	23	.477	11
Phoenix	19	23	.452	12
Golden State	18	25	.419	13½
L.A. Clippers	16	27	.372	15½

THURSDAY'S RESULTS

Orlando	25	30	26	21	—102
New York	24	22	28	26	—110

O: Anderson 11-21 1-1 30, Scott 8-14 2-4 22; N.Y.: Ewing 10-27 3-3 23, Mason 8-15 5-5 21. Rebounds—Orlando 51 (Grant 13), New York 57 (Ewing 15). Assists— Orlando 26 (Hardaway 11), New York 22 (Harper 12).

Philadelphia	30	34	16	24	—104
Miami	34	27	24	39	—124

P: Weatherspoon 7-16 10-12 24, Stockhouse 6-14 9-11 24, Ruffin 7-15 10-11 28; M: Mourning 7-11 6-8 20, Chapman 8-13 3-5 22. Rebounds—Philadelphia 42 (Alston 12), Miami 53 (Willis 10). Assists—Philadelphia 17 (Higgins 4), Miami 29 (Coles 9).

Houston	22	23	31	39	—116
Charlotte	24	30	27	30	—111

H: Olajuwon 15-22 2-2 32, Cassell 8-11 4-4 22; C: Johnson 8-14 4-4 20, Curry 9-18 0-1 23, Geiger 11-17 2-3 24, Anderson 10-22 0-1 24. Rebounds— Houston 54 (Olajuwon 11), Charlotte 47 (Geiger 11). Assists—Houston 34 (Drexler 14), Charlotte 28 (Johnson, Anderson 10).

Indiana	18	25	14	13	—70
Detroit	22	21	23	21	—87

I: Smits 8-18 5-5 21, Miller 3-11 2-2 9; D: Thorpe 9-15 5-6 23, Houston 8-16 2-2 21. Rebounds—Indiana 42 (Smits 7), Detroit 53 (Thorpe 14). Assists—Indiana 21 (McKey 5), Detroit 19 (Houston 7).

Denver	27	28	18	37	—102
Milwaukee	22	26	38	30	—108

D: Abdul-Rauf 8-17 6-7 25, MacLean 6-13 7-8 19; M: Baker 9-22 8-9 26, Robinson 8-21 3-6 20, Newman 7-11 6-7 21. Rebounds—Denver 48 (Mutombo 11), Milwaukee 49 (Baker 15). Assists—Denver 20 (Abdul-Rauf 7), Milwaukee 23 (Cummings 5).

Seattle	29	30	22	19	—100
Dallas	33	28	28	22	—103

S: Schrempf 9-18 0-0 19, Kemp 8-20 6-9 22, Payton 6-13 1-2 20; D: McCloud 7-18 5-5 22, Kidd 14-22 3-6 36. Rebounds— Seattle 60 (Kemp 15), Dallas 53 (Jones 14). Assists— Seattle 26 (Schrempf, Hawkins, McMillan, Askew 5), Dallas 23 (Kidd 8).

Chicago	33	19	28	25	—105
Sacramento	25	19	25	16	—85

C: Jordan 7-16 13-14 27, Wennington 5-9 3-4 14; S: Richmond 11-20 2-2 30, Williams 4-14 2-4 11. Rebounds—Chicago 46 (Rodman 21), Sacramento 42 (Polynice 13). Assists— Chicago 23 (Kukoc 5), Sacramento 14 (Richmond 4).

Top 25 College Results

How the top 25 teams in The Associated Press' college basketball poll fared Thursday:

1, Massachusetts (20-0) beat Temple 59-35. Next: at Xavier, Ohio, Sunday; 7, Utah (17-3) beat Texas-El Paso 77-62. Next: vs. New Mexico, Saturday; 11, Memphis (16-3) beat De Paul 83-82, OT. Next: at Louisville, Saturday; 14, Arizona (15-4) lost to Washington 80-79, OT. Next: vs. Washington State, Saturday.

18, Syracuse (15-6) beat Miami 72-51. Next: vs. Alabama, Sunday; 19, UCLA (14-5) beat Oregon 85-78. Next: vs. Oregon State, Saturday; 21, Boston College (12-5) lost to Providence 76-75. Next: at West Virginia, Saturday.

Major College Scores

Boston U. 82, Delaware 75, OT
Massachusetts 59, Temple 35
Maryland 80, Virginia 72
New Mexico 88, Brigham Young 81
Santa Clara 70, San Francisco 57
Southern Cal 64, Oregon St. 47
Southern Miss. 62, Tulane 61
Syracuse 72, Miami 51
UC Irvine 74, UC Santa Barbara 62
UCLA 85, Oregon 78
UNLV 84, San Jose St. 75
Utah 77, Texas-El Paso 62
Washington 80, Arizona 79, OT
Washington St. 72, Arizona St. 58

HOCKEY

NHL Standings

EASTERN CONFERENCE

ATLANTIC DIVISION

	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
N.Y. Rangers	30	11	10	70	188	139
Florida	31	14	6	68	177	139
Philadelphia	25	14	11	61	172	131
Washington	24	21	5	53	139	129
New Jersey	22	22	6	50	130	124
Tampa Bay	21	20	7	49	143	158
N.Y. Islanders	13	27	8	34	138	183
Pittsburgh	31	16	3	65	238	168
Montreal	25	20	6	56	162	157
Boston	21	20	7	49	171	175
Hartford	19	25	6	44	140	160
Buffalo	20	26	3	43	146	160
Ottawa	9	39	2	20	114	199

NORTHEAST DIVISION

WESTERN CONFERENCE

CENTRAL DIVISION

	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
Detroit	35	9	4	74	181	106
Chicago	26	15	11	63	176	141
Toronto	22	19	9	53	151	147
St. Louis	21	20	9	51	135	136
Winnipeg	21	25	4	46	176	185
Dallas	14	24	11	39	133	167

PACIFIC DIVISION

Colorado	27	15	9	63	197	143
Vancouver	17	20	13	47	180	169
Calgary	18	23	10	46	148	158
Los Angeles	17	23	12	46	177	185
Edmonton	18	26	6	42	135	190
Anaheim	18	27	5	41	141	167
San Jose	11	35	5	27	159	229

THURSDAY'S RESULTS

Florida	1	0	1	0—2
Boston	1	1	0	0—2

First Period: F-Lowry 7 (Niedermayer, Mellanby), 2, B-McEachern 16 (D.Sweeney) (pp). Second Period: B-Elik 8. Third Period: F-Hull 17 (Lindsay, Woolley). Overtime—None. Shots on goal:F- 7-11-7-2—27. B- 12-8-10-4—34. Goalies:F-Vanbiesbrouck. B-Ranford.

Washington	0	2	2	—4
Ottawa	1	1	0	—2

First Period: O-Musil 1 (Bonk, Daigle). Second Period: O-Duchesne 7 (Yashin, Huffman) :29 (pp), 3, W-Pivonka 6 (Jones) (pp), 4, W-Jones 16 (Bondra, Tinordi). Third Period: W-Hunter 6 (Konowalchuk, Miller), 6, W-Konowalchuk 21 (Miller, Johansson). Shots on goal:W- 11-17-14—42. O- 9-8-4—21. Goalies:W-Corey. O-Rhodes.

Montreal	0	2	0	0—2
Philadelphia	1	1	0	1—3

First Period: P-Quinn 7 (Samuelsson, Brind'Amour). Second Period: P-LeClair 27 (Desjardins, Lindros) (pp), 3, M-Rucinsky 17 (Odelein, Recchi), 4, M-Damphousse 23 (Rucinsky). Third Period—None. Overtime—5, P-Desjardins 5 (Brind'Amour Podein). Shots on goal:M- 1-5-6-2—14. P- 13-17-6-3—39. Goalies:M- Jablonski. P-Hextall.

Vancouver	0	1	1	0—2
St. Louis	0	2	0	0—2

First Period—None. Second Period: S.L.-G.Courtnall 14 (Hull), 2, V-Linden 21 (Babych, MacInay) (pp), 3, S.L.-, Tardif 2 (Roberts). Third Period: V-Mogilny 40 (Linden, Lumme) (pp). Overtime—None. Shots on goal:V- 13-7-16-0—36. S.L.- 13-8-5-3—29. Goalies:V-Hirsch. S.L.-Fuhr.

Winnipeg	1	1	2	—4
Colorado	2	3	1	—6

First Period: Colorado, Lemieux 24 (Forsberg, Kamensky), 2, Colorado, Deadmarsh 17 (Leschyshyn, Sakic), 3, W-, Zhamnov 17 (Sekaras, Maciver) (pp). Second Period: W-Zhamnov 18 (Maciver, Darryl Shannon), 5, Colorado, Sakic 33, (sh), 6, Colorado, Simon 6 (Yelle, Fiset), 7, Colorado, Lemieux 25 (Forsberg, Drolinsh). Third Period: W-Olczyk 19 (Malgunas, Selänne), 9, Colorado, Gusarov 4 (Lemieux, Kamensky), 10, W-, Zhamnov 19 (Tkachuk, Salanne) (pp). Shots on goal:W- 6-9-13—28. Colorado 19-14-11—44. Goalies:W-Khabibulin. Cheveldae. Colorado, Fiset.

New Jersey	0	0	1	0—1
Calgary	1	0	0	0—1

First Period: C-Tibw 16 (Housley, Zalapski) (pp). Second Period—None. Third Period: N.J.-Rolston 4 (MacLean, Stevens). Overtime—None. Shots on goal:N.J.- 6-8-8-3—27. C- 5-9-10-0—24. Goalies:N.J.-Brodeur. C-Kidd.

Los Angeles	3	0	3	0—6
San Jose	2	1	3	0—6

First Period: S.J.-Wood 2 (Donovan, Kozlov), 2, L.A.-Lacroix 13 (McSorley, Perreault) (pp), 3, San Jose, Odgers 3 (Baker, Tancill), 4, L.A.-Shochuk 1 (Todd, Khristich), 5, L.A.-Potomski 1 (Todd). Second Period: S.J.-Baker 8 (Kyte), Third Period: S.J.-Baker 9 (Tancil, Odgers), 8, San Jose, Tancil 4 (Badger), 9, L.A.-Stanley 5 (Druce) (sh), 10, L.A.-Kurri 11 (Gretzky, Boucher), 11, S.J.-Wood 3 (Donovan, Kyte), 12, L.A.-Kurri 12 (Khristich). Overtime—None. Shots on goal:L.A.- 10-8-13-1—32. S.J.- 9-12-16-1—38. Goalies:L.A.-Hrudey. S.J.-Flaherty, Terrert.

SKIING

World Cup Skiing

MEN'S DOWNHILL

Leading results of Friday's downhill race on the 3,455-meter Kandahar course in Garmisch-Partenkirchen, Germany: 1, Luc Alphand, France, one minute, 52.61 seconds; 2, Brian Stemmle, Canada, 1:52.95; 3, Peter Runggaldier, Italy, 1:52.96; 4, Kristian Ghedina, Italy, 1:53.59; 5, Guenther Mader, Austria, 1:53.86.

6, Patrick Ortlieb, Austria, 1:53.90; 7, Atle Skaardal, Norway, 1:53.91; 8, Max Rauffer, Germany, 1:53.92; 9, Josef Strobl, Austria, 1:54.16; 10, Werner Perathoner, Italy, 1:54.17.

Men's World Cup standings (after 28 events): 1, Kjus 974 points; 2, Mader, 798; 3, Michael von Gruenigen, Switzerland, 738; 4, Knaus, 670; 5, Tomba, Italy, 616.

6, Alphand, 608; 7, Mario Reiter, Austria, 533; 8, Fredrik Nyberg, Sweden, 525; 9, Sebastien Amiez, France, 459; 10, Kosir, Slovenia, 437.

WOMEN'S SUPER GIANT SLALOM

Leading results of Friday's super-giant slalom on the Oreiller-Killy course in Val D'Isere, with a drop of 1,673 feet: 1, Katja Seizinger, Germany, 1 minute, 11.32 seconds; 2, Renate Goetschl, Austria, 1:11.58; 3, Hilde Gerg, Germany, 1:11.71; 4, Martina Ertl, Germany, 1:11.73; 5, Picabo Street, U.S., 1:11.79.

6, Isolde Kostner, Italy, 1:11.85; 7, Ingeborg Marken, Norway, 1:11.87; 8, Alexandra Meissnitzer, Austria, 1:11.88; 9, Heidi Zeller-Baehler, Switzerland, 1:12.07; 10, Heidi Zurbriggen, Switzerland, 1:12.15.

Women's World Cup Standings (after 25 events): 1, Anita Wachter, 886 points; 2, Katja Seizinger, 882; 3, Martina Ertl, 844; 4, Alexandra Meissnitzer, 664; 5, Elfi Eder, Austria, 580.

6, Pernilla Wiberg, Sweden, 566; 7, Picabo Street, 553; 8, Michaela Dorfmeister, 528; 9, Isolde Kostner, 501; 10, Marianne Kjoerstad, Norway, 452.

TENNIS

Pan Pacific Open

WOMEN'S SINGLES

QUARTERFINALS

Iva Majoli (7), Croatia, def. Monica Seles (1), United States, 1-6, 7-6 (7-5), 6-4; Martina Hingis, Switzerland, def. Naoko Sawamatsu, Japan, 6-1, 6-2.

Arantxa Sanchez Vicario (3), Spain, def. Magdalena Maleeva (5), Bulgaria, 7-5, 6-3; Conchita Martinez (2), Spain, def. Lindsay Davenport (8), United States, 6-2, 6-3.

Shanghai Open

MEN'S SINGLES

QUARTERFINALS

Michael Tebbutt (4), Australia, def. Marcus Ondruska (5), South Africa, 6-3, 7-6 (8-6); Mark Knowles, Bahamas, def. Jeff Tarango (1), United States, 5-7, 7-5, 6-2.

SOCCER

SPANISH CUP

QUARTERFINAL, FIRST-LEG

Numancia 2 Barcelona 2

TRANSITIONS

BASEBALL

AMERICAN LEAGUE

BALTIMORE—Agreed to terms with Jimmy Haynes, pitcher, on 1-year contract.

CALIFORNIA—Signed Marquis Riley, outfielder, and Jeff Schmidt and Shad Williams, pitchers. Agreed to terms with Ryan Hancock, David Holdridge, and Ben VanRyn, pitchers, and Orlando Palmeiro, outfielder.

KANSAS CITY—Agreed to terms with Tim Belcher and Chris Haney, pitchers, on 1-year contracts.

MINNESOTA—Agreed to terms with J.J. Johnson and Jamie Ogden, outfielders, and Gus Gandarillas, Dan Naulty, Todd Ritchie and Hector Trinidad, pitchers.

SEATTLE—Agreed to terms with Luis Polonia, outfielder, on minor-league contract.

NATIONAL LEAGUE

L.A. DODGERS—Named Mitch Webster hitting coach at Yakima, NL, and Tom Thomas hitting coach at Great Falls, PL.

MONTREAL—Agreed to terms with Rheal Cormier, pitcher, on 1-year contract.

PHILADELPHIA—Signed Steve Frey, pitcher, to minor league contract. Signed Ron Blazier, pitcher, and David Doster, infielder, to 1-year contracts.

ST. LOUIS—Assigned Rod Correia, infielder, to Louisville, AA.

BASKETBALL

NATIONAL BASKETBALL ASSOCIATION

CHICAGO—Put Luc Longley, center, on injured list. Activated James Edwards, center, from the injured list.

DALLAS—Signed David Wood, forward, to 10-day contract. Put Lorenzo Williams, center, on injured list.

PHOENIX—Activated Danny Manning, forward, from injured list.

SACRAMENTO— Put Sarunas Marciulionis, guard, on injured list. Activated Clint McDaniel, guard, from injured list.

FOOTBALL

NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE

ATLANTA—Signed Ed Howard and Derrell Mitchell, wide receivers; Lincoln Coleman, running backs; Ronald Cherry, guard; Tommy Fagan, defensive lineman; Ruffin Hamilton and Rich Yurickevicz, linebackers; and Akili Johnson, defensive back.

N.Y. JETS—Announced will not renew contracts of Bob Reese trainer, and Joe Patten, assistant trainer.

PITTSBURGH—Announced that contracts of Ron Erhardt, offensive coordinator, and Pat Hodgson, tight ends coach, will not be renewed.

SEATTLE—Agreed to terms with Chris Warren, running back, on 3-year contract.

TAMPA BAY—Named Clyde Christensen tight ends coach.

HOCKEY

NATIONAL HOCKEY LEAGUE

BOSTON—Recalled Blaine Lacher, goalie, from Providence, AHL.

BUFFALO—Recalled Ladislav Karabin, center, from Rochester, AHL.

DOONESBURY

WIZARD of ID

PEANUTS



CALVIN AND HOBBES



GARFIELD



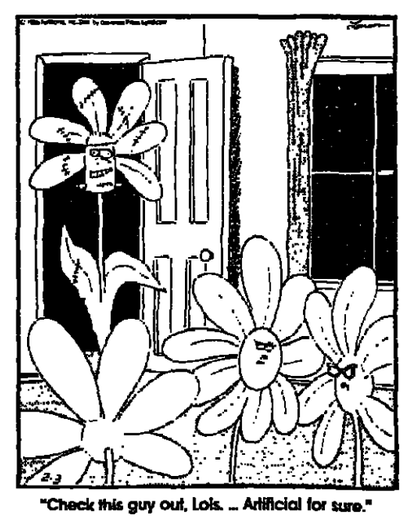
BEETLE BAILEY



BLONDIE



THE FAR SIDE



"Check this guy out, Lois. ... Artificial for sure."

JUMBLE.

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Mike Argirion

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

DYNOS

ADGEL

NASHEK

TARYEW



Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer: HIS "_____" _____

(Answers Monday)

Yesterday's Jumbles: GUILT BROOK FACILE STOLID
Answer: What Dad does when Junior gets new shoes — FOOTS THE BILL

DAVE BARRY

Winter Sport for the Mature

MIAMI — Skiing is an exciting winter sport, but it is not for everybody. For example, it is not for sane people. Sane people look at skiing, and they say: "WAIT a minute. I'm supposed to attach slippery objects to my feet and get on a frozen chair dangling from a scary-looking wire; then get dumped off on a snow-covered slope so steep that the mountain goats are wearing seat belts; and then, if by some miracle I am able to get back down without killing myself, I'm supposed to do this AGAIN??"

As I get older — which I am currently doing at the rate of about five years per year — this is more and more how I view skiing. I've been looking for an alternative winter sport that does not force a person to become so intimately involved with gravity. And so recently I went to Idaho (official state motto: "Convenient to Montana") to experience two winter sports that seemed better suited to the mature sportsperson in the sense that you can do them while sitting down.

A snowmobile is a high-performance motorized vehicle mounted on a track and skis that enable it to travel rapidly deep into remote snow-covered wilderness areas, where it gets stuck. Of course I didn't know this when I rented one. I knew nothing, which is why I also rented snowmobiles for my 15-year-old son, Rob, and his 14-year-old friend Ryan.

□

We rented them at a place called the Smiley Creek Lodge, which is in a place called Smiley Creek, which pretty much consists of the Smiley Creek Lodge. A very nice man showed us how to make the snowmobiles go. I thought he'd give us detailed instructions regarding where we should go, but basically all he said was that we should make an effort to remain in Idaho.

This did not prove to be so easy; not with Rob and Ryan at the controls. They are wonderful and intelligent boys, but they have the common sense of table salt. It's not their fault: Their brains have not yet developed the Fear Lobe. If you give them control over a motorized vehicle, they are going to go at the fastest possible speed, which on a modern snowmobile turns out to be 14,000 mph. I tried to exercise Adult Supervision by yelling, "HEY! GUYS! BE CAREFUL! HEY!" but they couldn't hear me, because sound travels only so fast.

So off we went, with the two Flaming No-Judgment Blurs roaring ahead, followed at an increasing distance by the Rapidly Aging Shouting Man. We would have been inside the Arctic Circle by nightfall if Ryan had not driven into the creek. It was not his fault. Some idiot had failed to put up a freeway-style sign with 15-foot-high letters saying "CREEK," and so Ryan naturally drove into it.

□

Since your modern snowmobile weighs as much as a freight locomotive, we were unable to pull Ryan's out, so he got on the back of mine and we all rode sheepishly back to the Smiley Creek Lodge. There we learned that another tourist party was also having problems: A man had gotten himself and his son stuck in deep snow, and they couldn't get out. The man's wife, who had not been wild about the snowmobiling idea in the first place, was informing the lodge personnel that she wanted her son back, but as far as she was concerned, they could leave her husband out there. (She was kidding.) (Sort of.) While this drama was unfolding, another group of tourists returned and announced that they, too, had planted a snowmobile somewhere out in Idaho.

None of this bothered the nice snowmobile-renting man. He calmly called in some local Idaho men. They went out and rescued the father and son, then they went and pulled out all of the stuck snowmobiles. I realized that this was routine for them; on any given winter day, probably two-thirds of the Idaho population is busy pulling tourist-abandoned snowmobiles out of creeks, snowbanks, trees, mine shafts, condominiums, etc.

So it all ended well, and the boys thought snowmobiling was the coolest thing we could have done short of blowing up a building. I, on the other hand, was looking for a more restful mode of snow transportation, and I'm pleased to report that I found one: It requires no gasoline; it goes at a nice safe speed; and it doesn't get stuck. On the other hand, it emits an amazing amount of wee-wee.

NEXT WEEK: Dogsledding.

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The 2 CV: They Laughed, Then Loved It

International Herald Tribune

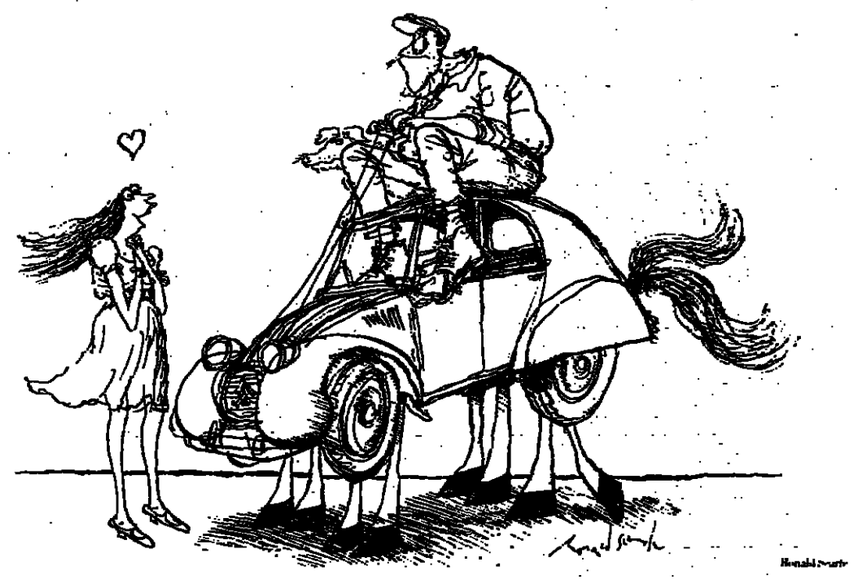
MARY BLUME

PARIS — They all laughed when Citroën brought out its 2 CV, or two-horsepower, car at the Paris automobile show of 1948: the president of the republic, Vincent Auriol, looks stupefied in a photograph standing by the contraption which was to be described as an umbrella on four wheels and apparently he uttered only one word, or sound, "Hmm."

In 1995, five years after the last 2 CV had rolled off the assembly line, the newly elected president, Jacques Chirac, who had previously been described as a bulldozer, was asked which car resembled him most and astutely replied, "A 2 CV."

By then the 2 CV had entered French mythology, lovable, reliable, singular, "a phenomenon where the heart is as strong as reason," a French journalist wrote. "No point in talking of its ugliness," he added. "One doesn't ask Madame Curie or La Pasionaria to do a striptease."

The 2 CV had all the qualities the French admire in themselves including seductiveness if not beauty. "One reason people love it is because it never tried to seduce and that is the height of coquetry — to seduce without trying," says Jacques Wolgensinger, author of a new book on the 2 CV published by Gallimard, "La 2 CV: Nous nous sommes tant aimés" (The 2 CV: We Loved Each Other So Much).



If the 2 CV was not the first people's car, still it was like no other popular vehicle, says Wolgensinger, who became Citroën's first press attaché in 1957. "The big difference is that the others wanted to be real cars, with solid bodies and a range of colors. They were less spacious inside than the 2 CV and you couldn't take out their back seats and put in a piano."

The father of the 2 CV was Pierre Boulanger who, irritated by horse-drawn wagons that slowed him down while driving along country roads in search of walnut oil, imagined an easily maintained car for farmers, less road-hogging than a wagon if just as slow. "No faster than a horse," he instructed his engineers.

He also instructed them to be "sordidly economical" and, it is said, demanded a car that could transport eggs over a plowed field without breaking them and accommodate a driver wearing a top hat (the top hat part sounds apocryphal and was, according to Wolgensinger: A fedora would do).

Early designs included a motor that would start with a pulled string, like a lawn mower (the final version had a crank instead), a body made from tar paper, and, for the 2 CV's single headlight, illumination by fireflies rather than a lightbulb.

The enduring aim of the 2 CV was to be so simple that anyone could repair it with a piece of wire or even string. "Many cars had problems with head gaskets," Wolgensinger says. "The solution was simply not to have any." Likewise with the distributor. For many years the 2 CV had no gas gauge (owners were provided with a dipstick) but it had a roll-back cloth top, making it the world's cheapest convertible.

After 49 prototypes, the 2 CV won government approval in August 1939, but production was halted for fear of the car falling into startled enemy hands. So it was not until 1948 that the 2 CV was unveiled. "Merde alors, it's ugly," was one recorded comment.

Rather than tar paper, the body was made of metal at least as strong as tin foil. The only available color was gray (blue was soon added, as well as a second headlight), the suspension was as supple as a trampoline. The first ad for the car, overseen by Boulanger, emphasized that it was for farmers, not for the young or for those who wished to climb hills. By the 1960s, the advertising emphasis, Wolgensinger says, was that this minimal car was more than a car: It was a servant, a family friend, a way of life, an enhancer of the soul.

To show its robustness, the 2 CV went on immense transcontinental journeys, three of them (to Afghanistan, Persepolis and from Abidjan to Tunis) organized by Wolgensinger. It also participated in the Monte Carlo rally and the Mille Miglia and it was converted into a motorboat on pontoons, a sailboat and even an aircraft. In 1958 it had acquired directional signals and from 1976 it appeared in various customized models.

Brigitte Bardot had one, a dance teacher in Toulon covered hers in plush so that passersby could caress it. The farmers for whom it had been designed were outnumbered by those for whom a 2 CV spelled anticonformism. "It wasn't for those who wanted speed, chrome and standing but it gave a sense of friendship to its user," Wolgensinger says.

Unfortunately, speed and chrome and standing, rather than friendship, became what people wanted, and also there were new safety and pollution laws. Sales declined from 1977 and the last 2 CV was produced in a plant in Portugal in 1990. The world grieved along with the French and the 2 CV remains a symbol of France. Last August, in protest against the nuclear tests, Norwegians blew one up in front of the French Embassy in Oslo.

To Wolgensinger, the 2 CV is not an automobile but a state of mind: "It is," he says, "the spiritual daughter of Mother Courage and Tom Thumb."

RESTAURANTS

Perils of Dining Out: Let the No-Shows Beware

By Florence Fabricant
New York Times Service

NEW YORK — People who would not dream of ignoring an appointment at the barber or the hairdresser think nothing of making restaurant reservations, then failing to call and cancel if their plans change. Tables stand empty when other diners are waiting, an inconvenience that is costly to a restaurant.

But for the last 18 months, American Express has been quietly testing a new system with restaurants to charge no-shows.

"The results have been very positive," said Lloyd Wirshba, the general manager for restaurants at American Express. So far, 35 restaurants are participating in the program. (The company has no plans to extend the program beyond the United States.) Of 10,000 reservations made in those restaurants, only seven no-shows have been billed. In 1993, before the program went into effect, One if by Land, Two if by Sea in Manhattan had 65 no-shows for Thanksgiving. For the last two holidays, with the new program in effect, there were none.

When a caller makes a reservation, the restaurant requests credit card information to guarantee it. If the caller provides the number, the restaurant explains that there will be a charge if the reservation is not honored without canceling.

The program, which guarantees the reservation for the customer in addition to charging for a no-show, is similar to the way hotels guarantee room reservations with a credit card.

Unlike hotels, which can charge the customer the full price of one night's stay, restaurants in the American Express program impose a fee of $10 or $25 a person. The exact amount is up to the restaurant, but American Express will not process a charge exceeding $300. Similarly, the time limit on canceling also depends on the restaurant.

"The charge in no way makes up for the loss of revenue if the table stays empty," said Henny Santo, an owner of Sign of the Dove in Manhattan, which has been participating in the program and charges $25 for no-shows. "It has just been a wonderful deterrent. We don't want to charge them. We just want them to call to cancel."

PEOPLE

VENICE'S La Fenice opera house, which was reduced to rubble by a fire, will be restored in 1998 to its 18th-century glory. **Gianfranco Mossetto**, the Venice administration's deputy for culture, said Friday that the decision to restore it to its 18th-century style was made to avoid squabbling over aesthetics. Meanwhile, opera performances will resume in a temporary location with Mozart's "Don Giovanni" on March 22.

□

The singer, songwriter and actor **David Bowie** is also a painter, and he is talking to a Vienna gallery about exhibiting his work. Bowie told the Austrian magazine News that he wants to show 150 portraits he did in oil during his current European tour. Bowie, who is to perform in Vienna on Sunday, said he also planned to meet with the Austrian painter **Hermann Nitsch**, who has shocked some people by painting with animal blood.

□

Two Swedish adventurers have left Gothenburg for a 17,000-kilometer (10,540-mile) journey to China by bicycle, according to the daily Expressen. **Christina Hyllner**, 44, and **Weine Arnesson**, 50, will spend a year cycling from Gothenburg to Beijing. Hyllner said the idea for the trip came to her almost as a dream. "I woke up in the middle of the night at the end of March and I knew that I had to cycle to Beijing," she said. She met Arnesson after explaining her cycling plans on a talk show.

□

Believe it? Or not. The Lao Dong newspaper in Hanoi reports that a farmer in central Vietnam has locked himself in his house with a giant sweet potato. The sweet potato, weighing in at 85 kilograms (187 pounds), was discovered by **Vo Nhu Da**. Word spread fast and before long he was inundated with throngs of curious visitors. "People came thousands of times to Da's house for a look, and so he had to take it into a room and lock the door," the paper said.

□

Some people don't care for the idea that **Michael Jackson** will use a Rio shantytown as a site for his music video "They Don't Care About Us." **Marcello Alencar**, governor of Rio de Janeiro state, said his visit would be just to show Rio "as a city of problems, of poverty." The crew for the video, which **Spike Lee** is producing, is expected to arrive next week. The Rio scenes are to be shot in the slum of Santa Marta, a violent no-man's-land controlled by cocaine traffickers. Officials insist they're not trying to hide Rio's problems, but they say the video would show a stereotype and could hurt a campaign to attract foreign investment.



Andrei Krasnikov/The Associated Press

BREAKING OUT — International action-movie superstar Jackie Chan at a promotion in New York for his new film, "Rumble in the Bronx."

□

Christian Slater likes to turn the tables on the paparazzi by turning the camera on them. "I pretty much go everywhere with a video camera," the actor said. He acknowledges that enduring paparazzi is part of the price of fame, but he insists on trying to protect his privacy. "It's a nightmare. It can be very difficult," he said. "You've got to fight your way through."

□

A flawed 32-cent **Richard Nixon** stamp, one of 200 known to exist, sold for $16,675 at Christie's auction house in New York. The stamp features Nixon's name upside down and his image split in two, with the head from the mouth up at the bottom and the lower part on top.

□

George Lang, the owner of Café des Artistes in New York and a co-owner of Gundel's in Budapest, has just signed a contract with Knopf for his autobiography: "Nobody Knows the Truffles I've Seen."

WEATHER

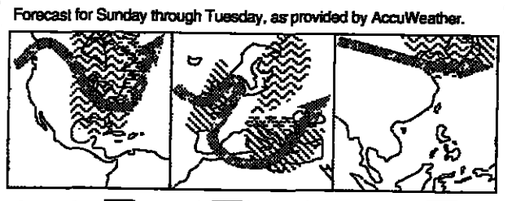
Europe

	Today High C/F	Today Low W C/F	Tomorrow High C/F	Tomorrow Low W C/F
Algarve	13/55	7/44 c	17/62	9/48 c
Amsterdam	4/39	-3/29 c	3/37	-3/27 c
Ankara	2/35	-6/22 pc	8/46	-1/31 pc
Athens	14/57	7/44 s	14/57	8/46 pc
Barcelona	14/57	7/44 c	15/59	7/44 c
Belgrade	7/44	-1/31 s	7/44	1/34 pc
Berlin	4/39	-1/31 r	2/35	-3/27 c
Brussels	7/44	1/34 r	4/39	-1/31 c
Budapest	4/39	-1/31 s	4/39	-1/31 pc
Copenhagen	2/35	-4/25 pc	-1/31	-4/25 pc
Costa Del Sol	14/57	7/44 r	17/62	9/48 sh
Dublin	8/48	2/35 s	8/46	2/35 sh
Edinburgh	7/44	3/37 pc	7/44	4/39 c
Florence	8/48	6/43 r	11/52	4/39 c
Frankfurt	2/35	-2/28 sn	1/34	-3/27 sn
Geneva	8/46	2/35 r	6/43	1/34 c
Helsinki	-2/29	-8/18 pc	-5/24	-11/13 pc
Istanbul	2/35	-2/29 s	10/50	5/41 pc
Las Palmas	19/66	15/59 r	21/70	14/57 pc
Lisbon	12/53	7/44 c	14/57	8/46 c
London	4/39	-3/27 pc	3/37	-4/25 pc
Madrid	11/52	3/37 r	11/52	3/37 pc
Milan	4/39	2/35 sn	7/44	1/34 c
Moscow	-8/18	-14/7 c	-10/15	-15/6 pc
Munich	5/41	-1/31 r	4/39	-3/27 sn
Nice	12/53	7/44 r	14/57	8/43 sh
Oslo	-5/24	-9/16 sn	-5/24	-11/13 pc
Mallorca	14/57	8/46 c	14/57	8/46 c
Paris	6/43	3/37 sh	4/39	2/35 c
Prague	3/37	-2/29 sn	2/35	-3/27 c
Reykjavik	3/37	-1/31 c	4/39	0/32 sn
Rome	11/52	6/43 r	11/52	5/41 sn
St. Petersburg	-9/16	-14/7 pc	-10/15	-14/7 pc
Stockholm	-2/29	-4/25 c	-3/27	-5/18 sn
Strasbourg	5/41	2/35 r	5/41	-1/31 sh
Tallinn	-2/29	-6/18 pc	-5/24	-11/13 pc
Venice	8/46	3/37 r	8/46	3/37 c
Vienna	4/39	-1/31 pc	3/37	-2/29 c
Warsaw	-9/22	-10/15 s	0/32	-5/24 pc
Zurich	4/39	1/34 sn	4/39	-1/31 c

Oceania

Auckland	23/73	17/62 r	24/75	16/61 pc
Sydney	26/79	18/64 pc	26/79	19/66 pc

Forecast for Sunday through Tuesday, as provided by AccuWeather.



North America
Bitterly cold weather will shift to the East after a snowstorm. Temperatures will be -15 to -10C in New York City and Washington, D.C, and to -2C in Orlando, Florida. Severe cold will continue in Chicago and Toronto. Milder air will spread into western Canada by Tuesday.

Europe
Rain will drench parts of Italy, Greece and Turkey while snow stretches from the Alps to Serbia, Bulgaria and Romania. Paris and Amsterdam will have dry weather Sunday and Monday, but rain by Tuesday. Rainy, windy weather will spread across the British Isles Sunday and Monday.

Asia
A storm developing over Japan will cause rain in many areas, with snow in the mountains. Cold, windy weather will follow. Korea will be harshly cold and windy, perhaps with snow flurries. Beijing will be cold and mainly dry. Shanghai and Hong Kong will also be dry for the most part.

Asia

	Today High C/F	Today Low W C/F	Tomorrow High C/F	Tomorrow Low W C/F
Bangkok	30/86	23/73 c	28/84	23/73 c
Beijing	2/35	-6/18 s	3/37	-9/16 s
Hong Kong	18/64	12/53 pc	17/62	13/55 c
Manila	32/89	23/71 pc	31/88	22/71 pc
New Delhi	27/80	11/52 pc	28/84	14/57 s
Seoul	-1/31	-11/13 s	0/32	-7/20 pc
Shanghai	6/43	-6/22 pc	8/46	-2/29 pc
Singapore	28/82	25/77 sh	28/84	25/77 t
Taipei	16/61	11/52 pc	17/62	12/53 c
Tokyo	3/37	-4/25 pc	5/41	-4/25 pc

Latin America

Buenos Aires	28/79	18/64 c	27/80	16/61 pc
Caracas	29/84	19/66 pc	29/84	20/68 s
Lima	25/77	21/70 c	26/79	21/70 pc
Mexico City	24/75	4/39 s	23/73	2/35 s
Rio deJaneiro	30/86	23/73 c	28/84	23/73 pc
Santiago	26/79	9/48 s	24/75	9/48 s

North America

Anchorage	-2/29	-16/4 s	-3/27	-14/7 pc
Atlanta	2/35	-4/25 t	-5/22	-13/9 t
Boston	-2/29	-7/20 sf	-2/29	-7/20 sn
Chicago	-13/9	21/-5 sf	-19/-2	-23/-9 sf
Denver	-8/18	-18/0 sf	-12/11	-22/-7 pc
Detroit	-8/18	-19/-2 sf	-13/9	-19/-2 sf
Honolulu	28/82	19/66 s	28/82	21/70 pc
Houston	7/44	0/32 r	4/39	-2/29 c
Los Angeles	18/64	10/50 pc	19/66	10/50 pc
Miami	29/84	22/71 c	29/82	18/64 t
Minneapolis	-23/-9	-29/-18 s	-25/-12	-29/-18 pc
Montreal	-1/47	-21/-5 sf	-10/15	-16/4 sn
Nassau	27/80	22/71 c	28/82	21/70 pc
New York	-2/29	-4/25 sf	-1/31	-9/16 sn
Phoenix	17/62	6/43 pc	16/61	7/44 pc
San Fran.	12/53	7/44 pc	13/55	8/48 sh
Seattle	2/35	-4/25 s	2/35	-4/25 pc
Toronto	-9/16	-13/9 sf	-11/13	-11/13 sn
Vancouver	1/34	-3/27 s	1/34	-3/27 pc
Washington	-2/29	-6/22 sn	-1/31	-9/16 sn

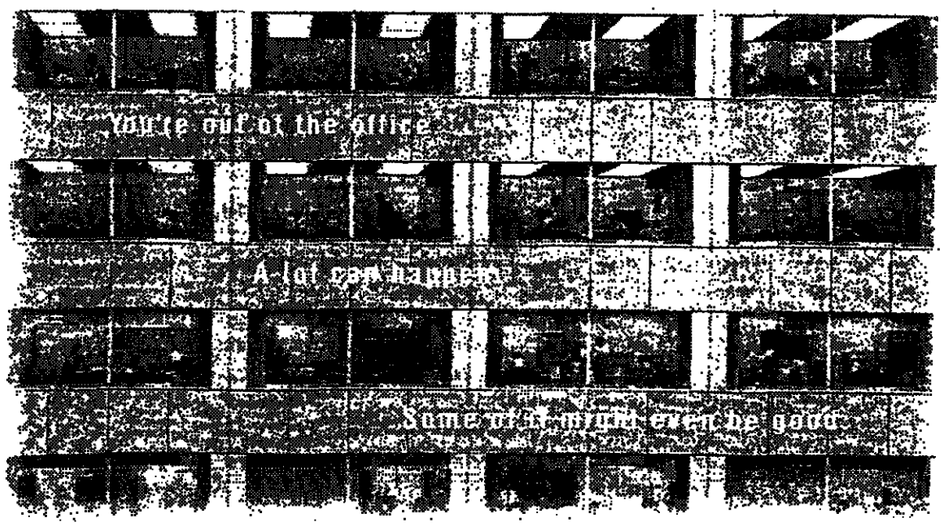
Middle East

	Today High C/F	Today Low W C/F	Tomorrow High C/F	Tomorrow Low W C/F
Abu Dhabi	27/80	18/64 s	28/82	18/64 s
Beirut	16/61	7/44 s	18/64	11/52 s
Cairo	16/61	5/41 c	17/62	7/44 pc
Damascus	12/53	-1/31 pc	14/57	4/39 s
Jerusalem	12/53	4/39 pc	14/57	7/44 s
Luxor	26/79	4/39 s	24/75	3/37 s
Riyadh	27/80	18/64 pc	23/73	12/53 c

Africa

	Today High C/F	Today Low W C/F	Tomorrow High C/F	Tomorrow Low W C/F
Algiers	18/61	10/50 c	17/62	9/48 pc
Cape Town	24/75	14/57 s	23/73	17/62 pc
Casablanca	15/59	7/44 c	12/53	4/39 sh
Harare	21/70	4/39 s	26/79	8/46 s
Lagos	30/86	26/79 pc	31/88	26/79 pc
Nairobi	23/73	12/53 c	24/75	13/55 c
Tunis	15/59	10/50 sh	18/64	9/48 c

Legend: s-sunny, pc-partly cloudy, c-cloudy, sh-showers, t-thunderstorms, r-rain, sf-snow flurries, sn-snow, w-cs. W-Weather All maps, forecasts and data provided by AccuWeather, Inc. ©1996



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Armenia*†	8014111
Austria*††	022-903-011
Belgium*	0-800-100-10
Bulgaria◆	00-800-0010
Croatia◆	99-385-0111
Czech Republic*	00-42-000-101
Denmark	8001-0010
Finland*	9800-100-10
France	19-0011
Germany	0130-0010
Greece*	00-800-1311
Hungary*	000800-01111
Iceland*	800 9001
Ireland	1-800-550-000
Italy*	172-1011
Lithuania◆	80196
Luxembourg	0-800-0111
Macedonia, F.Y.R.*††	99-800-4288
Malta■	0800-890-110
Monaco*	19-0011
Netherlands*	06-022-9111
Norway	800-190-11
Poland*†	00-8-800-111-1111
Portugal†	05017-1-288
Romania*	01-800-4288
Russia*† (Moscow)	155-5042
Slovak Rep.*†	08-42-000-101
Spain■	900-99-08-11
Sweden	020-795-611
Switzerland*	0-800-550011
Turkey*	00-800-12277
Ukraine†	8^10-800-11
United Kingdom	0800-89-0011
	0500-89-0011

MIDDLE EAST

Bahrain■	800-001
Cyprus*■	080-90010
Egypt* (Cairo)†	510-0200
Israel	177-100-2727
Jordan■	18 800 000
Kuwait■	800-288
Lebanon (Beirut)††	426-801
Qatar■	0800-011-77
Saudi Arabia■	1-800-10
Syria	0-801
U. Arab Emirates*■	800-121

AFRICA

Gabon*	0800-001
Gambia*	00111
Ghana	0191
Ivory Coast*	00-111-11
Kenya†	0800-10
Liberia	797-797
Morocco■	002-11-0011
Sierra Leone	1190
South Africa	0-800-99-0123
Zambia◆	00-899
Zimbabwe†	110-899

AMERICAS

Argentina◆	001-800-200-1111
Bolivia*	0-800-1112
Brazil	000-8810
Canada	1-800-225-5288
Chile	800-800-288
Colombia	980-11-0010
Costa Rica*■	0-800-0-114-114
Ecuador*	999-119
El Salvador*††	800-1785
Guatemala†††	190
Mexico◊◊■	95-800-462-4240
Nicaragua◆	174
Panama■*	109
Peru*■	171
Venezuela*■	800-11-120

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